

SENATE COMMITTEE ON INDIAN
AFFAIRS RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs Rules for the 116th Congress be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS—116TH
CONGRESS COMMITTEE RULES

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS RULES OF
PROCEDURE

Rule 1. The Standing Rules of the Senate, Senate Resolution 4, and the provisions of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, as amended by the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970, as supplemented by these rules, are adopted as the rules of the Committee to the extent the provisions of such Rules, Resolution, and Acts are applicable to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE

Rule 2. The Committee shall meet on Wednesday/Thursday while the Congress is in session for the purpose of conducting business, unless for the convenience of the Members, the Chairman shall set some other day for a meeting. Additional meetings may be called by the Chairman as he may deem necessary.

OPEN HEARINGS AND MEETINGS

Rule 3(a). Hearings and business meetings of the Committee shall be open to the public except when the Chairman by a majority vote orders a closed hearing or meeting.

(b). Except as otherwise provided in the Rules of the Senate, a transcript or electronic recording shall be kept of each hearing and business meeting of the Committee.

HEARING PROCEDURE

Rule 4(a). Public notice, including notice to Members of the Committee, shall be given of the date, place and subject matter of any hearing to be held by the Committee at least one week in advance of such hearing unless the Chairman of the Committee, with the concurrence of the Vice Chairman, determines that holding the hearing would be non-controversial or that special circumstances require expedited procedures and a majority of the Committee Members attending concurs. In no case shall a hearing be conducted with less than 24 hours' notice.

(b). Each witness who is to appear before the Committee shall submit his or her testimony by way of electronic mail, at least 48 hours in advance of a hearing, in a format determined by the Committee and sent to an electronic mail address specified by the Committee. In the event a federal witness fails to timely file the written statement in accordance with this rule, the federal witness shall testify as to the reason the testimony is late.

(c). Each Member shall be limited to five (5) minutes of questioning of any witness until such time as all Members attending who so desire have had an opportunity to question the witness unless the Committee shall decide otherwise.

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

Rule 5(a). A legislative measure or subject shall be included in the agenda of the next following business meeting of the Committee if a written request by a Member for consideration of such measure or subject has been filed with the Chairman of the Committee at least one week prior to such meeting. Nothing in this rule shall be construed to limit the authority of the Chairman of the Committee to include legislative measures or

subjects on the Committee agenda in the absence of such request.

(b). Any bill, resolution, or other matter to be considered by the Committee at a business meeting shall be filed with the Clerk of the Committee. Notice of, and the agenda for, any business meeting of the Committee, and a copy of any bill, resolution, or other matter to be considered at the meeting, shall be provided to each Member and made available to the public at least three (3) days prior to such meeting, and no new items may be added after the agenda is published except by the approval of the Chairman with the concurrence of the Vice Chairman or by a majority of the Members of the Committee. The notice and agenda of any business meeting may be provided to the Members by electronic mail, provided that a paper copy will be provided to any Member upon request. The Clerk shall promptly notify absent Members of any action taken by the Committee on matters not included in the published agenda.

(c). Any amendment(s) to any bill or resolution to be considered shall be filed by a Member of the Committee with the Clerk not less than 48 hours in advance. This rule may be waived by the Chairman with the concurrence of the Vice Chairman.

QUORUM

Rule 6(a). Except as provided in subsection (b), a majority of the Members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Committee. Except as provided in Senate Rule XXVI 7(a), a quorum is presumed to be present unless the absence of a quorum is noted by a Member.

(b). One Member shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting a hearing or taking testimony on any measure or matter before the Committee.

VOTING

Rule 7(a). A recorded vote of the Members shall be taken upon the request of any Member.

(b). A measure may be reported without a recorded vote from the Committee unless an objection is made by any Member, in which case a recorded vote by the Members shall be required. A Member shall have the right to have his or her additional views included in the Committee report on the measure in accordance with Senate Rule XXVI 10.

(c). A Committee vote to report a measure to the Senate shall also authorize the staff of the Committee to make necessary technical and conforming changes to the measure.

(d). Proxy voting shall be permitted on all matters, except that proxies may not be counted for the purpose of determining the presence of a quorum. Unless further limited, a proxy shall be exercised only for the date for which it is given and upon the terms published in the agenda for that date.

SWORN TESTIMONY AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Rule 8(a). Witnesses in Committee hearings who are required to give testimony shall be deemed under oath.

(b). At any hearing to confirm a Presidential nominee, the testimony of the nominee and, at the request of any Member, any other witnesses that come before the Committee shall also be under oath. Every nominee shall submit a questionnaire on forms to be provided by the Committee, ethics agreement, and a public financial disclosure report, (OGE Form 278 or a successor form) which shall be sworn to by the nominee as to its completeness and accuracy and be accompanied by a letter issued by the nominee within five (5) days immediately preceding the hearing—swearing that nothing has changed in their financial status or documents since the documents were originally filed with the Committee. The public finan-

cial disclosure report and ethics agreement shall be made available to the public by the Committee unless the Committee, in executive session, determines that special circumstances require a full or partial exception to this rule.

(c). Members of the Committee are urged to make public a complete disclosure of their financial interests on forms to be perfected by the Committee in the manner required in the case of Presidential nominees.

CONFIDENTIAL TESTIMONY

Rule 9. No confidential testimony taken by, or confidential material presented to the Committee, or any report of the proceedings of a closed Committee hearing or business meeting shall be made public in whole or in part, or by way of summary, unless authorized by a majority of the Members of the Committee at a business meeting called for the purpose of making such a determination.

DEFAMATORY STATEMENTS

Rule 10. Any person whose name is mentioned or who is specifically identified in, or who believes that testimony or other evidence presented at, an open Committee hearing tends to defame him or her or otherwise adversely affect his or her reputation may file with the Committee for its consideration and action a sworn statement of facts relevant to such testimony of evidence.

BROADCASTING OF HEARINGS OR MEETINGS

Rule 11. Any meeting or hearing by the Committee which is open to the public may be covered in whole or in part by television, Internet, radio broadcast, or still photography. Photographers and reporters using mechanical recording, filming, or broadcasting devices shall position their equipment so as not to interfere with the sight, vision, and hearing of Members and staff on the dais or with the orderly process of the meeting or hearing.

AUTHORIZING SUBPOENAS

Rule 12. The Chairman may, with the agreement of the Vice Chairman, or the Committee may, by majority vote, authorize the issuance of subpoenas.

AMENDING THE RULES

Rule 13. These rules may be amended only by a vote of a majority of all the Members of the Committee in a business meeting of the Committee: Provided, that no vote may be taken on any proposed amendment unless such amendment is reproduced in full in the Committee agenda for such meeting at least seven (7) days in advance of such meeting.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO EVELYN ELLIS-HAINES

● Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, for the first Granite Stater of the Month of 2019, I am proud to recognize fifth grader Evelyn Ellis-Haines of Belmont for her work helping those in need. Through a youth civics program at her school, Evelyn launched a clothing drive, and with the support of her teachers and classmates, she collected more than 700 items to donate to some of our most vulnerable citizens in the Granite State.

Evelyn was inspired to start her clothing drive because, in her words, she "wanted to help people." Addressing poverty is something that has always concerned Evelyn. Her family even recalls her making baked goods to

give to people she saw experiencing homelessness and often asking why they could not do more to help them. When the opportunity to participate in New Hampshire's Kid Governor Program arose, Evelyn created a platform based on addressing poverty and worked with her school to start a clothing drive. Every Monday in December, she reminded her classmates during their school assembly to bring items to donate, which resulted in her collecting hundreds of items in just under a month.

Evelyn donated the items to the largest family shelter in her community and wants to continue working to help address poverty. She will be volunteering with the same organization this summer and hopes to expand her clothing drive beyond just her school. For her efforts to support her community and help those in need, I am proud to recognize Evelyn as the January 2019 Granite Stater of the Month.●

VERMONT STATE OF THE UNION ESSAY WINNERS

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, since 2010 I have sponsored a State of the Union essay contest for Vermont high school students. This contest gives students in my State the opportunity to articulate what issues they would prioritize if they were President of the United States.

This is the contest's 9th year and I would like to congratulate the almost 600 students who participated. It is truly heartening to see so many young people engaged in finding solutions for the problems that face our country. To my mind, this is what democracy is all about.

A volunteer panel of Vermont teachers reviewed the essays and chose Firdaus Muhammad as this year's winner. Firdaus, a freshman at Essex High School, focused on the rise of Islamophobia across the Nation. Jackson Maiocco, a senior at Bellows Falls Union High School, was the second place winner. Jackson wrote about military spending and the impact our defense budget has on our Nation. Joseph Brody, a senior at St. Johnsbury Academy, was the third place winner, having written about voter suppression.

I am very proud to enter into the Congressional Record the essays submitted by Firdaus, Jackson, and Joseph.

The material follows:

FIRDAUS MUHAMMAD, ESSEX HIGH SCHOOL,
FRESHMAN, WINNER

September 11, 2001—a day that all Americans remember. A day that changed so many lives. A day when I wasn't even alive yet. Yet 9/11 was a day that changed my life. Fast forward eleven years to 2012. I was in third grade and had just made the decision to start wearing the hijab in public. I had awoken that winter morning with the intention to wear my hijab to school, but I was naive. I didn't know that by wearing the hijab, I became a symbol of Islam. I didn't realize that by wearing a piece of cloth on my head, I was

suddenly a nine year old representing all 1.7 billion Muslims across the globe.

It's 2019. Eighteen years have passed since 9/11. It's been seven years since I started wearing the hijab publicly. The racism against Muslims has only gotten worse. The hatred and Islamophobia has spread like wildfire, affecting every Muslim in its path. Women's hijabs are being ripped off, racist slurs are being spit at Muslims, and the angry stares have only increased. The rise of Islamophobia during these past years has been exacerbated by President Trump's Travel Ban. On January 27, 2017, President Trump signed the Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States Order. This became known as the Travel Ban or essentially, the Muslim Ban. Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria, Yemen, North Korea, and Venezuela were all affected by this ban. It's not a coincidence that five of these countries have a majority Muslim population.

I clearly remember watching the news with my dad and hearing all the racist names being thrown at Muslims. Being an eleven year old Muslim girl, I couldn't comprehend how people could be so rude and racist to one another. I didn't understand why Muslim families were suddenly being torn apart because they were deemed "unsafe". Why were people suddenly so scared of Muslims? Didn't they know that Islam was a religion founded on peace and justice? A religion of equality and kindness? How can we live in "The Land of the Free" when Muslims are afraid of being targeted based solely on their religion? I am lucky enough to live in Vermont where most people are quite respectful and accepting of each other. But I also know that there are other Muslims who are not so lucky. Those Muslims who feel isolated in their offices, schools, and other public places.

I believe that in order to solve this huge racial problem, we must learn to accept each other's differences. We should not discriminate against others based on their religion. We need to make sure that we represent people as they are, not based on stereotypes. We cannot let the actions of a few people reflect the beliefs of a whole religion. The United States is a country of diversity, a country built by immigrants. Any person who comes from any religion, deserves to feel respected and welcomed in this country.

JACKSON MAIOCCO, BELLOWS FALLS UNION
HIGH SCHOOL, SENIOR, SECOND PLACE

For decades, an excess of military spending has plagued our nation while there are many vital areas that would prosper with the reallocation of some military spending. The majority of our nation's federal budget is dedicated to the military; in 2018, the US spent a grand total of \$623 billion on national defense. This huge sum of money dwarfs the amount that President Trump allocated to the Department of Education: a mere \$68 billion. I know that sounds like a considerable amount of money, so I'll put it in perspective. For every dollar spent on education, nearly \$11 went to the military. This simply can't stand.

In fiscal year 2018, the US Federal Budget was roughly a trillion dollars. President Trump made good on his promise to slash federal budgets, but increased the defense budget by almost 10%. Considering the size of the defense budget, a 10% increase is huge: \$52 billion, to be exact. Areas that were negatively affected by Trump's budget cuts were the Department of Education, which had a 14% budget slash, and the Department of Health and Human Services, which lost 18% of its federal funding. Every country's main goal should be the scientific and social advancement of their citizens and society as a whole, so the damage done by Trump's bud-

et cuts is incredibly detrimental to our nation. Meanwhile, we're pouring unprecedented amounts of money into building tanks that will never see action; according to Eric Husher, former Senior Balkan Intelligence Analyst (1992-1996), there are over 4,000 M1 Abrams tanks sitting in the Nevada desert collecting dust. Keep in mind that it costs upwards of \$4.3 million to assemble an M1 Abrams. So collectively, there's roughly \$17 billion worth of American taxpayers money sitting in a parking lot in Nevada. But wait, it gets worse. These tanks aren't being built for use; they're simply being built to keep a factory running. This needless military spending is incredibly detrimental to our country. Excessive military expenditures results in slower economic growth, and, as outlined above, is simply a waste of money.

The only feasible solution is to gradually decrease military spending, and invest those funds into more worthwhile areas such as education, science, and healthcare. Far right hawks and conservatives might argue that a drastic decrease in military expenditures would leave us exposed and weak, but the evidence states otherwise. In fact, even if we cut our military budget by 80%, we would still have military superiority in the world.

In the words of legendary journalist Hunter S. Thompson, "Every Republican administration since 1952 has let the military-industrial complex loot the treasury and plunge the nation into debt on the excuse of a wartime economic emergency." With no such emergency anywhere in sight, our tax dollars should be spent on more worthwhile investments.

JOSEPH BRODY, ST. JOHNSBURY ACADEMY,
SENIOR, THIRD PLACE

Democracy was founded on the fundamental principle that the power of government is derived from the consent of the governed. Throughout the course of our nation's history, this foundation has been fractured by the disenfranchisement of low-income and minority groups. The Jim Crow laws, for example, prevented African Americans from voting through poll taxes and literacy tests. While the means of voter suppression have become less glaring, the United States continues to systematically suppress underrepresented populations from exercising their Fifteenth Amendment right. In order to ensure that our democracy is accessible and fruitful for all, the United States must abolish Voter ID laws and reform Election Day.

First of all, minorities are silenced by the Voter ID laws. As Attorney General Eric Holder simply stated, "We call those poll taxes." Voter ID laws inhibit minority voters because they present additional barriers to an already problematic voting process. Even though obtaining identification is often touted as "free," Harvard Law School asserts that the cost of supporting documents can exceed \$175. Given that minorities are often in the lowest income brackets, this price can be insurmountable and disproportionately prevents African Americans from receiving identification. The Brennan Center for Justice revealed that nearly 25% of African Americans lack necessary identification in comparison to just 8% of their white counterparts. According to The University of San Diego, the beneficiaries of Voter ID laws are largely "whites and those on the political right." Clearly, this not only alienates minorities, but produces politicians who are not concerned with their interests. The solution is simple: eradicate Voter ID laws. Though many express concern about voter fraud, this fear is baseless. Professor Justin Levitt confirms that there have only been 31 cases of credible voter impersonation since 2000. In short, Voter ID laws are a refurbished Poll Tax; under the mask of "fraud