

(1) DEFINITIONS.—Section 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012) is amended—

(A) in subsection (r), by inserting “the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,” after “Guam,”; and

(B) in subsection (u)(3), by inserting “the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,” after “Guam,”.

(2) ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS.—Section 5 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2014) is amended—

(A) in subsection (b), in the first sentence, by inserting “the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,” after “Guam,”;

(B) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “and Guam,” and inserting “Guam, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,”; and

(C) in subsection (e)—

(i) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,” after “Hawaii,” each place it appears; and

(ii) in paragraph (6)(B), in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting “the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,” after “Guam,”.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this subsection shall be effective with respect to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as applicable, on the date described in subparagraph (B) if the Secretary of Agriculture submits to Congress a certification under subsection (f)(3) of section 19 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2028) (as added by subsection (b)).

(B) DATE DESCRIBED.—The date referred to in subparagraph (A) is, with respect to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the date established by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, respectively, in the applicable plan of operation submitted to the Secretary of Agriculture under subsection (f)(1)(A) of section 19 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2028) (as added by subsection (b)).

(b) TRANSITION OF PUERTO RICO, AMERICAN SAMOA, AND THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS TO SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—Section 19 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2028) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f) TRANSITION OF PUERTO RICO, AMERICAN SAMOA, AND THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS TO SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—

“(1) SUBMISSION OF PLAN BY PUERTO RICO, AMERICAN SAMOA, AND THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.—

“(A) SUBMISSION AND REVIEW OF PLAN OF OPERATION.—If a State agency is designated by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (referred to in this subsection as a ‘governmental entity’) and submits to the Secretary a request to participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program and a plan of operation under section 11 (including a date on which the governmental entity will begin to participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program), the Secretary shall determine whether that governmental entity and State agency satisfy the requirements that

would apply under this Act for approval of that plan if the governmental entity were 1 of the several States.

“(B) DETERMINATION BY SECRETARY.—

“(1) APPROVAL.—The Secretary shall approve a plan of operation under subparagraph (A) if the governmental entity and State agency satisfy the requirements described in that subparagraph.

“(ii) DISAPPROVAL.—If the Secretary does not approve a plan of operation under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall provide to the governmental entity a statement that describes each requirement that is not satisfied by the plan.

“(2) APPROVAL OF RETAIL FOOD STORES.—If the Secretary approves a plan of operation under paragraph (1)(B)(i), the Secretary shall accept from retail food stores located in the applicable governmental entity applications under section 9 for approval to participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

“(3) SUBMISSION OF CERTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall submit to Congress a certification that a governmental entity qualifies to participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program as if the governmental entity were a State if the Secretary—

“(A) approves the plan of operation under paragraph (1)(B)(i); and

“(B) approves the applications under paragraph (2) of a number of retail food stores located in the governmental entity requesting to participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program that would be sufficient to satisfy the requirements of this Act if the governmental entity were 1 of the several States.

“(4) CASH BENEFITS PROVIDED IN PUERTO RICO.—As part of a plan of operation submitted under paragraph (1)(A), the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico may submit to the Secretary a request to provide benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program in the form of cash.

“(5) FAMILY MARKET PROGRAM IN PUERTO RICO.—As part of a plan of operation submitted under paragraph (1)(A), notwithstanding subsection (g), the Secretary shall allow the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to continue to carry out, under the supplemental nutrition assistance program, the Family Market Program established under this section.

“(g) TERMINATION OF EFFECTIVENESS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsections (a) through (e) shall cease to be effective with respect to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as applicable, on the date described in paragraph (2) if the Secretary submits to Congress a certification under subsection (f)(3).

“(2) DATE DESCRIBED.—The date referred to in paragraph (1) is, with respect to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the date established by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, respectively, in the applicable plan of operation submitted to the Secretary under subsection (f)(1)(A).”

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out this section and the amendments made by this section such sums as are necessary for each fiscal year, to remain available until expended.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have 10 requests for committees to meet

during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 26, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 26, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Chairman's housing reform outline.”

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 26, 2019, at a time to be determined during votes, to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Andrew M. Saul, of New York, to be Commissioner of Social Security, Gordon Hartogensis, of Connecticut, to be Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, and Courtney Dunbar Jones, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 26, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled, “Ukraine's progress and Russia's malign activities.”

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 26, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled, “Making electronic health information available to patients and providers.”

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 26, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled, “Examining guidelines for State action.”

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 26, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CYBERSECURITY

The Subcommittee on Cybersecurity of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 26, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MANUFACTURING, TRADE, AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

The Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the

Senate on Tuesday, March 26, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Small business perspectives on a Federal Data Privacy Framework.”

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EAST ASIA, THE PACIFIC, AND INTERNATIONAL CYBERSECURITY POLICY

The Subcommittee on East Asia, The Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy of the Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 26, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., to hearing entitled, “U.S. policy towards North Korea after the second summit.”

GOLD STAR WIVES DAY

Mr. PERDUE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res 68 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 68) designating April 5, 2019, as “Gold Star Wives Day”.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. PERDUE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 68) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of February 13, 2019, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF FORT BENNING IN COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

Mr. PERDUE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Armed Services Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res 72 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 72) honoring the 100th anniversary of Fort Benning in Columbus, Georgia.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. PERDUE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 72) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of February 14, 2019, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

NATIONAL REHABILITATION COUNSELORS APPRECIATION DAY

Mr. PERDUE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res 117 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 117) designating March 22, 2019, as “National Rehabilitation Counselors Appreciation Day”.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. PERDUE. Madam President, I know of no further debate on the measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There being no further debate, the question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 117) was agreed to.

Mr. PERDUE. I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of March 14, 2019, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2019

Mr. PERDUE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 27; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 268; finally, that all time during recess, adjournment, morning business, and leader remarks count postcloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 268.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. PERDUE. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of Senator KLOBUCHAR.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for as much time as I may consume.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I rise to join my colleagues in sharing my concerns and all of our concerns that we have—and really the concerns of a nation—about the announcement last night from a Department of Justice that works for this administration, which announced its plans to literally invalidate the Affordable Care Act and strip healthcare coverage away from millions of Americans, including those with preexisting conditions.

Before this time, it was a bit unclear, despite a court filing in Texas, what the intentions were. Some of our colleagues were saying, “No, we don’t really want to repeal the Affordable Care Act,” but last night we learned the truth, and the truth was very clear. The Justice Department took a hardline approach that they want to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

The President tweeted today that the Republican Party “will soon be known as the party of health care.” In fact, yesterday’s filing—in which the administration changed its previous position and argued in support of affirming the decision of a district court judge in Texas—ensures exactly the opposite; that this administration will break the promise it made to the American people that they can have healthcare insurance; that if they have a preexisting condition, they will not lose their healthcare. That was what the situation was before we had the protections in place in the Affordable Care Act, before you were able to keep your kids on your insurance until they were 26. That was a huge positive development.

Then we also put in place protections that said you couldn’t be kicked off your insurance for preexisting conditions. All over the last year, we had a debate about this in this Nation. I still remember being in a smalltown parade in Northern Minnesota, where a mom was pushing a stroller. She brought me over and pointed to her toddler in that stroller, to her young boy who had Down syndrome. She said: This is what a preexisting condition looks like, and I will do everything to protect my child. Guess what. Last night, the administration announced they wouldn’t protect that child because they will do everything to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

Let’s start with the absurd ruling the administration is basing its actions on. The Texas ruling last December came more than 6 years after the Supreme Court, in an opinion written by Justice Roberts, upheld the law’s constitutionality, which also found that parts of the law can be severed from the rest of the legislation. It also came after