

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE RESEARCH

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Science, Oceans, Fisheries, and Weather concluded a hearing to examine atmospheric science research and forecasting innovation, after receiving testimony from Waleed Abdalati, University of Colorado Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences, Boulder; Deborah A. Bronk, Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences, East Boothbay, Maine; Radley Horton, Columbia University, Palisades, New York; and Erika Washburn, Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve, Superior, Wisconsin.

CARBON CAPTURE, UTILIZATION, AND STORAGE PROGRAMS

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Department of Energy's carbon capture, utilization, and storage programs, including S. 1201, to amend the fossil energy research and development provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to enhance fossil fuel technology, after receiving testimony from Steven E. Winberg, Assistant Secretary of Energy for Fossil Energy; S. Julio Friedmann, Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs Center on Global Energy Policy, Livermore, California; Adam Goff, 8 Rivers Capital, LLC, Durham, North Carolina; John Harju, University of North Dakota Energy and Environmental Research Center, Grand Forks; Richard Jackson, Occidental Petroleum Low Carbon Ventures, Houston, Texas; and Judith Lagano, NRG Energy, Inc., Princeton, New Jersey.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Bridget A. Brink, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to the Slovak Republic, Kenneth A. Howery, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Sweden, Matthew S. Klimow, of New York, to be Ambassador to Turkmenistan, and John Jefferson Daigle, of Louisiana, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cabo Verde, all of the Department of State, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 1328, to designate foreign persons who improperly interfere in United States elections as inadmissible aliens; and

S. 1321, to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit interference with voting systems under the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act.

NOMINATION

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of James Byrne, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs, after the nominee testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 39 public bills, H.R. 2780–2818, and 3 resolutions, H. Res. 385–387, were introduced. **Pages H3923–24**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H3925–27**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 2779, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–64);

H.R. 1994, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage retirement savings, and for

other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–65, Part 1);

H.R. 1318, to direct the Librarian of Congress to obtain a stained glass panel depicting the seal of the District of Columbia and install the panel among the stained glass panels depicting the seals of States which overlook the Main Reading Room of the Library of Congress Thomas Jefferson Building (H. Rept. 116–66, Part 1);

H.R. 1775, to establish a task force on NOTAM improvements, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–67);

H.R. 1200, to increase, effective as of December 1, 2019, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–68);

H.R. 2045, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, with amendments (H. Rept. 116–69); and Supplemental Report on H.R. 965, to promote competition in the market for drugs and biological products by facilitating the timely entry of lower-cost generic and biosimilar versions of those drugs and biological products (H. Rept. 116–55, Part 3). **Pages H3922–23**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Jackson Lee to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H3845**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:45 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H3850**

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Rabbi Bruce Lustig, Washington Hebrew Congregation, Washington, DC. **Page H3850**

Marketing and Outreach Restoration to Empower Health Education Act of 2019: The House passed H.R. 987, to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to provide for Federal Exchange outreach and educational activities, by a recorded vote of 234 ayes to 183 noes, Roll No. 214. **Pages H3853–H3904, H3910–11**

Rejected the Walden motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Energy and Commerce with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a recorded vote of 188 ayes to 228 noes, Roll No. 213. **Pages H3904–10**

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116–14 shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Energy and Commerce now printed in the bill. **Pages H3868–73**

Agreed to:

Pallone amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 116–61) that clarifies communication requirements for eligible product developers and license holders regarding requests, offers, and delivery of product samples; **Pages H3873–74**

Welch amendment (No. 3 printed in H. Rept. 116–61) that prohibits the Secretary of HHS from ending autoenrollment; **Pages H3876–77**

Blunt Rochester amendment (No. 4 printed in H. Rept. 116–61) that requires the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to release all aggregated studies and data sets created on or after January 1, 2014 related to marketing and outreach for the Affordable Care Act’s individual marketplace; **Pages H3877–78**

DeSaulnier amendment (No. 5 printed in H. Rept. 116–61) that commissions a study by the National Academy of Medicine into the amount of federal funding and research used in the development of drugs by pharmaceutical companies, and to put measures in place to curb excessive drug costs; **Pages H3878–79**

Shalala amendment (No. 7 printed in H. Rept. 116–61) that states the sense of Congress that the Secretary of HHS should not take any action to prohibit or restrict “silver loading”; **Pages H3879–80**

Hayes amendment (No. 8 printed in H. Rept. 116–61) that amends the Federally-Facilitated Marketplace (FFM) navigator program to authorize \$25,000,000 out of amounts collected by user fees for State-Based Exchanges; ensures that no state shall receive a grant that is less than \$1,000,000; **Pages H3880–81**

McBath amendment (No. 9 printed in H. Rept. 116–61) that provides pharmacy school outreach by directing the Labor HHS and Education Secretaries to do outreach to institutions of higher education as it relates to the use and availability of generic drugs; **Pages H3881–83**

Scanlon amendment (No. 10 printed in H. Rept. 116–61) that requires the HHS Secretary to issue bi-weekly public reports during the annual open enrollment period on the performance of the federal exchange and the Small Business Health Options Program exchange; each report will include a summary of information on the open enrollment season including the number of website visits, accounts created, calls to the call center, number of people who enroll in a plan and what enrollment path they took, e.g., website, broker, or call center; **Pages H3883–84**

Morelle amendment (No. 11 printed in H. Rept. 116–61) that requires GAO to study the effect of President Trump’s cuts to ACA outreach and the Navigator Program on health insurance enrollment and the cost of coverage; **Pages H3884–85**

Waters amendment (No. 12 printed in H. Rept. 116–61) that requires HHS to submit to Congress a report on the extent to which increases in the prices of commonly prescribed drugs have caused individuals with health insurance to forego needed treatment; **Pages H3885–86**

Johnson (TX) amendment (No. 13 printed in H. Rept. 116–61) that requires Navigators to receive

training on how to assist consumers with Medicaid and CHIP enrollment; **Pages H3886–87**

Lynch amendment (No. 14 printed in H. Rept. 116–61) that extends the deadline by which States may apply for federal assistance to establish state-based marketplaces by one year to December 31, 2023; extends the date by which the State Exchanges must be self-sustaining by one year to January 1, 2025; **Pages H3887–88**

Lynch amendment (No. 15 printed in H. Rept. 116–61) that asks the GAO to conduct a cost benefit analysis of the establishment of State-administered health insurance plans for states that may want to offer a public option in their health insurance exchanges; the report is due to Congress no later than one year after enactment; **Page H3888**

Lipinski amendment (No. 16 printed in H. Rept. 116–61) that requires a GAO report to determine whether the Department of Health and Human Services has taken appropriate steps to ensure that routine maintenance to the Healthcare.gov website is minimally disruptive to consumers; **Pages H3888–89**

Deutch amendment (No. 17 printed in H. Rept. 116–61), as modified, that adds a duty requiring navigators to provide information in plain language regarding essential health benefits and consumer protections under the mental health and substance use disorder benefits parity law; **Pages H3889–91**

Brown (MD) amendment (No. 18 printed in H. Rept. 116–61) that adds that the Secretary shall implement outreach and educational activities in areas with high health disparities; **Pages H3891–92**

Gomez amendment (No. 19 printed in H. Rept. 116–61) that clarifies the ability of Navigators to provide referrals to community-based organizations that address social needs related to health outcomes; **Pages H3892–93**

Escobar amendment (No. 20 printed in H. Rept. 116–61), as modified, that requires Navigators to assist vulnerable populations including individuals with limited English proficiency and chronic illnesses; **Pages H3893–94**

Pappas amendment (No. 22 printed in H. Rept. 116–61) that requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to set annual enrollment targets for the Exchanges for the plan year 2020 and each subsequent plan year; **Pages H3896–97**

Cox (CA) amendment (No. 23 printed in H. Rept. 116–61) that adds a new subsection (b): Promote Transparency and Accountability in the Administration's Expenditures of Exchange User Fees, which requires HHS to submit an annual report to Congress that includes a detailed breakdown of the Department's spending on outreach and enrollment,

navigators, maintenance of Healthcare.gov, and operation of the Healthcare.gov call centers; **Pages H3897–98**

Cox (CA) amendment (No. 24 printed in H. Rept. 116–61) that adds areas with high concentrations of unemployment to the list where such outreach and educational activities shall be provided; **Pages H3898–H3900**

Horn amendment (No. 26 printed in H. Rept. 116–61) that ensures rural areas are included in navigator outreach; **Pages H3900–01**

Cunningham amendment (No. 27 printed in H. Rept. 116–61) that ensures that state healthcare Exchanges' outreach activities are also targeted towards veteran populations; **Pages H3901–02**

Harder (CA) amendment (No. 6 printed in H. Rept. 116–61) that provides opioid specific education and training to the Navigators and the Certified Application Counselors (CACs) that ensures they can best educate individuals on the marketplace plans specifically for opioid health care treatment (by a recorded vote of 243 ayes to 174 noes, Roll No. 211); and **Pages H3879, H3902**

Wexton amendment (No. 21 printed in H. Rept. 116–61) that includes findings that the final rule on short-term, limited duration insurance weakens protections for the millions of Americans living with preexisting health conditions, including children with complex medical needs and disabilities and their families (by a recorded vote of 232 ayes to 185 noes, Roll No. 212). **Pages H3894–96, H3904**

Rejected:

McKinley amendment (No. 2 printed in H. Rept. 116–61) that sought to strike title II—Health Insurance Market Stabilization (by a recorded vote of 189 ayes to 230 noes, Roll No. 210). **Pages H3874–76, H3902–03**

Agreed that in the engrossment of the bill, the Clerk be authorized to make technical corrections and conforming changes. **Page H3911**

H. Res. 377, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 5), (H.R. 312), and (H.R. 987) was agreed to yesterday, May 15th.

Requiring each Member, officer, and employee of the House of Representatives to complete a program of training in workplace rights and responsibilities each session of each Congress: The House agreed to discharge from committee and agree to H. Res. 30, requiring each Member, officer, and employee of the House of Representatives to complete a program of training in workplace rights and responsibilities each session of each Congress.

Page H3911

Making technical corrections to the computation of average pay under Public Law 110–279: The House agreed to take from the Speaker’s table and pass S. 1436, to make technical corrections to the computation of average pay under Public Law 110–279. **Page H3911**

Permission to File Report: Agreed by unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to file a supplemental report on H.R. 965, to promote competition in the market for drugs and biological products by facilitating the timely entry of lower-cost generic and biosimilar versions of those drugs and biological products. **Page H3911**

Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker’s appointment of the following Members on the part of the House to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group: Representatives Correa, Gonzalez of (TX), Jackson Lee, Escobar, Lofgren and Carbajal. **Page H3913**

House Democracy Partnership—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker’s appointment of the following Members to the House Democracy Partnership: Representatives Moore, Titus, Connolly, Ted Lieu (CA), Torres (CA), Kelly (IL), Sewell (AL), DeGette, Plaskett and Lee (CA). **Page H3913**

Senate Referral: S. 1208 was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. **Page H3921**

Senate Messages: Message received from the Senate and message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appear on pages H3853 and H3876.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Five recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H3902–03, H3903, H3904, H3909–10, and H3910. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Appropriations: Full Committee held a markup on the Report on the Revised Suballocation of Budget Allocations for FY 2020; and the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Bill, FY 2020. The Report on the Revised Suballocation of Budget Allocations for FY 2020 was approved. The State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Bill, FY 2020, was ordered reported, as amended.

THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE’S FINANCIAL IMPROVEMENT AND AUDIT REMEDIATION PLAN: THE PATH FORWARD

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Department of Defense’s Financial Improvement and Audit Remediation Plan: The Path Forward”. Testimony was heard from David Norquist, Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), Department of Defense; Thomas Harker, Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Financial Management and Comptroller), U.S. Navy; John Roth, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Financial Management and Comptroller), U.S. Air Force; and John Whitley, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management and Comptroller), U.S. Army.

MILITARY PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT—HOW ARE THE MILITARY SERVICES ADAPTING TO RECRUIT, RETAIN, AND MANAGE HIGH QUALITY TALENT TO MEET THE NEEDS OF A MODERN MILITARY?

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Military Personnel held a hearing entitled “Military Personnel Management—How Are the Military Services Adapting to Recruit, Retain, and Manage High Quality Talent to Meet the Needs of a Modern Military?”. Testimony was heard from James N. Stewart, Performing the Duties of the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense; Lieutenant General Thomas Seamands, Deputy Chief of Staff, G–1, U.S. Army; Vice Admiral Robert P. Burke, Chief of Naval Personnel, U.S. Navy; Lieutenant General Brian T. Kelly, Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services, U.S. Air Force; and Lieutenant General Michael A. Rocco, Deputy Commandant for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, U.S. Marine Corps.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy held a markup on H.R. 2088, a bill to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to reauthorize the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program, and for other purposes; H.R. 2041, the “Weatherization Enhancement and Local Energy Efficiency Investment and Accountability Act”; H.R. 2119, a bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to reauthorize grants for improving the energy efficiency of public buildings, and for other purposes; H.R. 1315, the “Blue Collar to Green Collar Jobs Development Act of 2019”; H.R. 2665, the “Smart Energy and Water Efficiency