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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 24, 2019, at 12 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2019

RENEWABLE FUELS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Last week, Siouxland Energy, an ethanol plant in Sioux Center, IA, announced that they are halting production due to the unfair small refinery exemptions. This farmer-owned plant was annually buying 23.4 million bushels of corn from farmers in the area, and it also employed 42,000 people who, today, do not know when they will be able to go back to work. This kind of economic impact is a big deal in rural communities. If it spreads, it is going to create a lot of unemployment and closed ethanol plants in other places around the country. I have heard of production halts announced in other States as well.

In fact, the ethanol industry supports more than 365,000 total jobs, and the biodiesel industry supports more than 65,000 total jobs. We have made great progress through the Renewable Fuel Standard in diversifying our Nation’s fuel supply while creating jobs and strengthening local economies.

We have to get this issue settled. I hope we can get an announcement from the EPA very soon about that so we can get these plants open and get these people back to work.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, over the weekend, details emerged about President Trump’s conduct with Ukrainian President Zelensky. Specifically, the President’s phone calls with the Ukrainian leader were subject of an official whistleblower complaint by a member of the intelligence community. The intelligence community’s inspector general, a Trump appointee, has determined that this whistleblower’s complaint is credible and a matter of urgent concern, whose subject matter “not only falls within the DNI’s jurisdiction, but relates to one of the most significant and important of the DNI’s responsibilities to the American people.”

By law, a whistleblower complaint labeled in this way must be transmitted to Congress—not shall be transmitted to Congress, must be. The Trump administration has not allowed that to happen. So far, in the face of this dire warning and the Trump administration’s effort to cover it up, the Republican-led Senate has remained silent and submissive, shying away from this institution’s constitutional duty to conduct oversight.

That is an obligation we have. It is not a yes or no. That is our job. The Republicans are in the majority in the Senate. With that majority comes the power to call hearings, issue subpoenas, and decide what legislation
comes to the floor. The majority in the Senate, therefore, has an obligation to consider and act on the Senate's behalf, particularly when it comes to matters of oversight and matters of separation of powers. Yet, so far, we have no indication that Senate Republicans are prepared to act. Most have yet to speak out.

The Republican Senate's "see no evil, hear no evil" attitude is unacceptable and must change. Again, this is an issue of solemn obligation. There is no wiggle room here. The obligation of the inspector general is to turn over the whistleblower information now that he has found it credible and urgent. And here, typically, our Senate Republicans and the Senate leader sit supinely in obeisance to Donald Trump's reckless lawbreaking.

This is a democracy, and we have heard nothing from our Republican colleagues about what the President has done, as abhorrent as that is, and the stonewalling of information. What is the President afraid of in this whistleblower report? We don't know; we can only speculate. But we do know there is an obligation for it to come to Congress.

So today I sent the Republican leader, Senator MITCH MCCONNELL, a letter calling on him and the Republican chairs of the Senate relevant committees to fulfill their constitutional duties and immediately take the following actions:

One, convene hearings to determine exactly what prompted the whistleblower to file this urgent complaint. At a minimum, these hearings should include testimony from Acting Director of National Intelligence Joseph Maguire, Acting Office of Management and Budget Director Russell Vought, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, and President Trump's private attorney, Rudy Giuliani, among others.

Two, issue a subpoena to compel the delivery of the whistleblower complaint to Congress as required—by law.

Three, request the White House to release the transcript of President Trump's conversation with Ukrainian President Zelensky during which President Trump reportedly pressured the Government of Ukraine to investigate Vice President Biden and his family.

Four, identify the administration officials who requested that $341 million of security assistance to Ukraine be delayed, and request that all records related to this decision be turned over to Congress.

Five, insist that the Department of Justice prove any legal opinion or other guidance it has given regarding the administration's obligation to transmit the whistleblower complaint to Congress.

It is the Senate's duty to take this national security matter seriously and investigate now. Senate Republicans have the sole power and the overwhelming responsibility to see that it does. How long must we wait for our Republican colleagues to rise up to their responsibilities to the Constitution, to separation of powers, and to rule of law when President Trump brazenly violates that law? When are we going to hear the voices? It is unbelievable.

As President Trump erodes the very fabric of this democracy, our Republican colleagues—I believe out of fear—do nothing. That is not a profile in courage. That is not even what Senator after Senator, for generation after generation of party, has done. But we are obviously in a new era here where, on the Republican side, anything Donald Trump wants to do, he can get away with, whether or not it violates the law, violates our principles, violates the grand traditions of this democratic Republic.

DECLARATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on a somewhat related matter, again about President Trump's overreach and lack of respect for any rule of law, Senate Republicans will be forced to vote later this week on the President's emergency declaration, which is using the power of the purse to steal money from our military to fund a border wall that he promised Mexico would pay for. Again, my Republican colleagues face a choice about whether to have the Senate enforce its role as a check on the executive branch.

By declaring a national emergency, the President has tried to go around the constraints of his office to spend taxpayer dollars the way he wants instead of the way the Congress appropriates. Remember, Congress has explicitly and repeatedly rejected the President's request for border wall funding. Now he is trying to improperly take it from funds elsewhere—in this case, the military.

The Constitution states that Congress alone has the power of the purse. Will my Republican colleagues vote to reassert those constitutional powers, or will they buckle to the pressure of partisan loyalty to the President?

And I say to some of my very conservative friends, conservatism says: Let's not have large agglomerations of power. Let the individual have the most freedom to exercise his or her will.

When the President overreaches, what has happened to the true conservatives? They are quiet. They almost hide under their desks. History will not look at it kindly.

Many of my Republican colleagues have military installations, schools, and major projects in their States that would suffer as a result of the President's emergency. The Pentagon last week warned of dire outcomes if this funding is not restored, even warning that the President's choice "may put the country at risk." Will Senate Republicans vote to defend our troops, their families, their children? Will they vote to defend millions of dollars of important projects in their States, including medical facilities in North Carolina, a hurricane recovery project in Florida, and a middle school in Kentucky? Well, these questions will be answered this week.

I have seen reports that the Republicans are searching not just for other ways to restore military funding other than by ending the President's emergency declaration. Make no mistake—Democrats will not assent to backfilling accounts or other backhanded ways of approving taxpayer dollars for the President's border wall. The President said Mexico would pay for it. That is the only thing he said during the campaign. When people yelled "build the wall," it was Mexico that was going to pay for it, not American taxpayers and certainly not our military—not the brave men and women who risk their lives for us and whose families go through such hardship.

The simplest, quickest, and only way of protecting military funding is for my Republican friends to join us in terminating the emergency declaration later this week.

I urge—urge—my Republican colleagues to think about their States and the important military projects that hang in the balance, to think about the precedent it would set for this President and for future Presidents, and above all, to think about the constitutional questions, to just read the Constitution and defend the Article I powers of Congress given to us by the Founders.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this week the Senate will consider more than 400 nominations to fill important positions in the Federal Government. Too many important seats have continued to gather dust 2.5 years into this Presidency due to systematic Democratic obstruction.

The President deserves his team, and the American people deserve to be governed by the government they actually elected back in 2016. So as long as there continues to be resistance to processing uncontroversial nominees in the typical fashion by voice vote, we will continue to vote on these impressive men and women.

Leading off this week are nominees to be Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury, Ambassador to the Republic of Piji, Solicitor of the Department of the Interior, and Deputy Commissioner of Social Security. I hope our colleagues will join in supporting each of them.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the Senate also needs to remain focused on...
my important job of funding the Federal Government.

Last week brought an unfortunate spectacle: The vast majority of our Democratic colleagues actually filibustered legislation to fund our national defense. The dollar figures they had previously agreed to—funding for the first year of a political fight with the President.

The funding our commanders need to keep pace with China and Russia, the funding our men and women in uniform need for their tools and training, even a pay raise for our servicemembers—all of it was blocked by our Democratic colleagues, blocked by Democrats in order to pick a partisan fight with the White House. That is an interesting statement of priorities, but I remain hopeful that we can get this process back on track.

Back in July, both parties in both Houses of Congress and the White House all agreed to a bipartisan, bicameral roadmap to guide appropriations efforts with respect to a recent whistle-blower allegation—the special subject of the allegations, there is speculation that our colleagues will use this to politicize the committee’s ongoing efforts with respect to a recent whistleblower allegation—the special subject of which is still unknown.

As my friend Senator SCHUMER is aware, Chairman BURH and Vice Chairman WARNER have been working together to get the Acting Director of Intelligence and the intelligence community’s inspector general before the committee this week to discuss the matter. As with most matters before the committee, I believe it is extremely important that their work be handled in a secure setting with adequate protections, in a bipartisan fashion, and based on facts rather than leaks to the press.

It is regrettable House Intelligence Committee Chairman SCHIFF and Senator SCHUMER have chosen to politicize the issue, circumventing the established procedures and protocols that exist so the committees can pursue sensitive matters in the appropriate, deliberate, bipartisan manner.

Although we don’t know the substance of the allegations, there is speculation that it relates to our relations with Ukraine. For my part, as I stated earlier this month, I was very glad to see the White House release security assistance funds for Ukraine.

I championed U.S. security assistance to Ukraine over the objections of the Obama administration in 2014 and have consistently believed in the importance of helping our Ukrainian partners defend their territory against Russian aggression. In fact, I had been personally pressing them to release security assistance funding for several months to ensure the United States did not walk back our important commitments to Ukraine.

On two occasions I raised the need to keep our commitment to Ukraine with the Secretary of Defense, expressing my interest in seeing this money be released to help our Ukrainian partners. I raised it with the Secretary of State. My staff also engaged senior officials at the Pentagon, at the State Department, at the National Security Council, and at the Office of Management and Budget. I also worked closely with Senator GRAHAM on the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee and Chairman SHEELBY.

Throughout July, August, and early September, I worked hard to ensure that Ukraine received the much-needed assistance. That is because, looking back years, I have urged administrations of both parties to completely clear-eyed about the dangerous intentions of Putin’s Russia and the importance of standing with Ukraine.

I sounded the alarm early and often when President Obama went soft on Putin and missed opportunities to send arms to Ukraine, and during the Trump administration, I have been a strong supporter of its efforts to provide defensive lethal weapons to Ukraine and to Georgia.

As I have said repeatedly, Russia poses a significant threat to U.S. interests. The best way to contest Putin and his hegemonic aspirations is to rebuild our defenses, work closely with our allies and partners, and improve the capacity of those threatened by Moscow to defend themselves.

I am grateful that security assistance has finally been released to help our friends in Ukraine defend themselves. Now the task falls on us to pass a Defense bill and make the necessary investment in modernizing our own military to ensure America’s preeminent position in the world and to deter challenge from adversaries like Russia and China.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 2486 and H.R. 4378

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand that there are two bills at the desk due for a second reading, en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the second time en bloc.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2486) to redesignate mandatory funding programs for historically Black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions.

A bill (H.R. 4378) making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2020, and for other purposes.
RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination Brian McGuire, of New York, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

UKRAINE

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I just listened to the majority leader come to the floor and tell Members of the Senate that they should close their eyes and box their ears to the current scandal that is engulfing the White House and the Trump administration. I heard the majority leader accuse Democrats of “politicizing” President Trump’s demands for the Government of Ukraine to interfere in the 2020 election. That is a laughable charge, and it is not going to silence us on this matter of grave importance.

First of all, I have no idea what it means to politicize something these days. News flash: We are politicians. We practice politics. That is our job. I get told very often that I am politicizing gun violence when I suggest that maybe we should pass laws in order to change the daily trajectory of violence in this country. Yet the very reason we are here is to protect the safety of our constituents and to protect the sanctity of our democracy.

What we are standing up for right now is the rule of law, and I hope, over the course of this week, my Republican colleagues will join us in that basic responsibility that Members of the Senate and House of Representatives have. We need to say the law is law wherever we find it, and if our Nation is slipping away from us right now. When our Nation is being turned into a banana republic where the President can do anything he wants and turn the organs of state into his permanent political machine—his means of crushing his opponents. Today, it seems to me my Republican colleagues are not just letting it happen but facilitating it.

There has to be a line that the President cannot cross. There has to be a moment when we all stand up and say: This has gone too far.

The President has admitted this weekend to asking a foreign leader to open an investigation into one of his political opponents as a means of advancing himself politically. That is not allowed in a democracy. That fundamentally corrupts the foreign policy of our Nation. It makes us all less safe when foreign governments now wonder whether they are going to be enlisted into the political operation of the President of the United States. That has always been a no-go area for Democratic and Republican administrations because we understand the vast power the Presidency has. If the President chooses to use that power and the leverage he has in this country and in other countries to do his political bidding, then there is nothing to protect any of us from the executive branch.

The idea that the President can openly admit that he is asking a foreign government to get involved in his political reelection campaign—and believe that he will get away with it—suggests a belief in the impunity surrounding his office. We should all be concerned about that.

At the very least, if my Republican colleagues don’t share my grave alarm at the disclosures of the last 48 hours, then we should at least agree that the whistleblower complaint needs to come before the Congress unredacted. There is no fuzzy penumbra around this law. The President cannot cross. There has to be a moment the President is able to turn the country into a banana republic, then we should at least agree that the President’s admission of guilt may be enough to make a determination about what the next steps are. But for those who aren’t persuaded that there have to be consequences for the President’s admission of wrongdoing, but at the very least, we need to come together and make sure we have all of the information necessary.

By the way, it doesn’t end with the whistleblower complaint because the whistleblower complaint is unlikely going to raise even more questions that we are going to have to answer. We have a duty to then go out and find additional information.

For many, the President’s admission of guilt may be enough to make a determination about what the next steps are. But for those who aren’t persuaded that there have to be consequences for the President’s admission of wrongdoing, and the potential wrongdoing of an administration. There will be a moment if we don’t, at the very least, come to the conclusion that we need to see it as the law states.

That is just the beginning because I think—as the President has advertised—that complaint is going to show he did, indeed, try to pressure a foreign government to conduct investigations into one of his political opponents. I think this is a really serious moment for the country. I think it is a really serious moment for the prerogatives of the article I branch.

I understand that my Republican colleagues may not be ready to talk about consequences for the administration for their wrongdoing, but, at the very least, we need to come together and make sure we have all of the information necessary.

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Ukraine—assistance that was appropriated security funding for Ukraine hostage to its government’s willingness to investigate his political opponents here at home. The alleged threat by President Trump to withhold vital military assistance from Ukraine came out last week in press reports about a whistleblower complaint from a U.S. intelligence official. These revelations suggest a gross abuse of power unlike anything I have ever seen during my 27 years of working on U.S.-foreign relations in recent days about President Trump’s personal lawyer’s efforts in the House to fully investigate the role of the President’s personal lawyer in pressuring a foreign country to investigate the family of a potential political opponent. I urge the Senate to follow suit because a legitimate President would never allow his lawyer to override bipartisan support for Ukraine. A legitimate President would not let his personal lawyer compel foreign powers to interfere in our political process. A legitimate President would not withhold congressionally appropriated funding to Ukraine to advance his reelection prospects. So I am calling for a series of measures today to get to the bottom of this.

First, I call upon the inspector general of the State Department to review the withholding of security assistance for Ukraine. This review must include the extent to which the Department was aware of or was part of the decision to withhold these funds and whether our own laws were broken. The inspector general must also examine whether the State Department knew why the administration was withholding these funds and highlight any communications between the White House and the State Department on this matter.

Second, I call upon the State Department to provide all details and records about any support in any form provided from the Department for the President’s personal lawyer’s efforts in Ukraine. We need to know about any briefings the President’s personal lawyer provided to Department personnel and his interactions with Ukrainian officials.

Third, I call on the Office of Management and Budget to tell Congress why it sat on Ukraine’s security assistance for more than 2 months. It typically takes the OMB just 5 days to review notifications from the implementing agencies. To sit on a notification for more than 2 months is unorthodox, unprecedented, and unacceptable.

Fourth, I call upon the Senate Committees on Foreign Relations, Appropriations, Armed Services, and the Select Committee on Intelligence to immediately hold hearings on the President’s purported use of security assistance to pressure Ukraine to open an investigation into a political opponent. I urge Chairman Risch to fulfill his constitutional responsibility to hold the Administration accountable for its actions and a markup on Russia sanctions.

If President Trump had used money to coerce another person to perform an act that was against their will, we would call it out for what it was—extortion. Are we just going to let the President of the United States extort foreign leaders? Are we going to let him reshape American foreign policy to advance his own personal and political goals? Is this not a gross abuse of Presidential power? If not, then what is? These committees have a responsibility to ask these questions, and they have a constitutional responsibility to do their jobs.

The Senate, as a whole, has an obligation to get to the bottom of this. Do my Republican colleagues really think it is OK to ask a foreign power to pursue unfounded allegations against a political opponent? Is this the new normal? I hope not. This behavior we have never seen from an American President. Unfortunately, it is behavior that fits into President Trump’s broader pattern of surrendering to his patrons in Moscow.

I could say that extorting Ukraine were the only way Donald Trump corrupted our national security over the course of the summer, but that is just not the case. Last month, President Trump also redirected funding for the European Deterrence Initiative to his ridiculous border wall. Funding for the European Deterrence Initiative helps our allies counter the kind of Russian malign influence that was deployed by Putin against our democracy in 2016.

It is well known by now that President Trump was lying when he said that Mexico would pay for the wall. To this day, he refuses to own up to this lie, so much so that he is willing to siphon dollars away from our military and abandon our most vital democratic allies in Europe to pursue a medieval vanity project. It is yet another example of his selling out our national security to curry favor with his political benefactors.

Over the past few weeks, my office has heard from several European Embassies that are now stuck holding the bill for Trump’s wall. While you won’t hear it from them publicly because they, too, fear a backlash from this President, they are offended and angry about this decision. It is simply astounding. We are talking about the allies that Americans fought and died for in order to defend democracy, worked so hard to rebuild after World War II, and continued to protect during the Cold War.

I am sure the Kremlin couldn’t be happier. To Putin, this must be a
stroke of genius. Trump is killing two birds with one stone by redirecting these funds. He is dividing us from our European allies in the face of Russian aggression and dividing the American people with his politics of hate. I have said it before, and I will say it again: Investing in Donald Trump’s candidacy was the best decision Putin ever made. His patron at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue will stop at nothing to repay the debt. It might indeed be the only debt businessman Donald Trump has ever worked so hard to repay.

My friends, we have witnessed a real summer of love between Trump and Putin. Consider the G7 meeting in France last month. So clearly was the United States not the leading voice at the table. So tragically have we lost the confidence of our closest allies, and so predictably did our President once again make an appeal on behalf of his patron in Moscow by repeatedly calling for the expansion of the G7 to include Russia.

Sometimes I wonder: Does President Trump actually think that Russia is a democracy? Does he think that the Russian people live in freedom? Does he believe Russia represents the interests of America’s interests? I have to say that little surprises me these days, but even I was taken aback to see him blame President Obama for Russia’s behavior—on foreign soil, no less.

There is only one country responsible for Russia’s removal from the G8 in 2014, and that is Russia. The Russian Federation was suspended from the G8 by its fellow countries because of its invasion and illegal occupation of Crimea, which is the territory of the sovereign nation Ukraine. Five years later, more than 10,000 Ukrainian patriots are dead. That is why Russia does not belong in the G8.

What has the Kremlin done since 2014 that could possibly justify an expansion of the G7? Has it suspended its illegal occupation of Crimea? Has it behaved like a responsible member of the international community? Has it respected the sovereignty of other nations? The answers are no, no, and no.

Let’s review Russia’s behavior since 2014.

First—and on the top of mind for many of us—was Russia’s sweeping and systematic interference in our 2016 Presidential election on behalf of then-Candidate Trump, as is documented in the special counsel’s sovereign report. Spreading propaganda, manipulating social media, and spying on American election infrastructure is not the behavior of a G7 country.

Second, the Kremlin’s chemical weapons attack on British soil—a blatant assassination attempt against a Putin opponent and his daughter. One British citizen was killed, and others required medical attention. This is not an isolated case. Just last month, a Russian citizen was gunned down in a park in Berlin at the suspected hand of the Russian authorities.

This is not the behavior of a G7 country.

Third is the Kremlin’s complicity in Bashar al-Assad’s war crimes in Syria. An untold number of Syrian civilians have been killed by Russian airstrikes in the country of Georgia. More than 11 years after Russia’s invasion, the Georgian people suffer under its ongoing aggression. That is not the behavior of a G7 country.

Fourth, in recent weeks, Russian forces have ramped up their pressure on the country of Georgia. The Kremlin’s ongoing and too often violent oppression of the Russian people is not the behavior of a G7 country. No country acts this way. This behavior is destabilizing, it is aggressive, and it does not belong at the table of democracies.

It is truly a disgrace that any American President would so easily discount all of what I have just described to win favor with his patron and pal. Of course, these aren’t the only gifts bestowed by President Trump during this summer of love.

Let’s not forget how the President has delayed sanctions on Turkey over its purchase of the Russian S-400 system. Congress passed these sanctions under the Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act, or CAATSA, in response to Russia’s attack on our elections in 2016. We have these sanctions for a reason. They advance America’s national security interests. They starve the Russian defense sector of much needed international business. By not imposing these sanctions we craft to counter our adversaries, this President is both failing to hold Russia accountable and sending a dangerous message to other countries that they can buy Russian weapons systems without consequence. From the moment we passed CAATSA, this administration has resisted every step of the way.

So let’s imagine, for a moment, what a legitimate American President, a President who is not a Putin puppet, would do in this situation. How would that person protect our country? First, a legitimate President would not endanger the relationship with a key ally in order to gain political advantage at home. They would show solidarity with our democratic allies by locking in the promise of all appropriated security assistance to Ukraine and funding for European efforts to counter Russian aggression.

Second, I am sure they would not welcome Russia back into the G7.

Third, they would impose CAATSA sanctions on Turkey and send a clear message to the world that the United States is serious about imposing sanctions on Turkey and sending a clear message to the world that the United States is serious about imposing sanctions on Turkey and sending a clear message to the world that the United States is serious about imposing sanctions on Turkey and sending a clear message to the world that the United States is serious about imposing sanctions on Turkey and sending a clear message to the world that the United States is serious about imposing sanctions on Turkey and sending a clear message to the world that the United States is serious about imposing sanctions on Turkey and sending a clear message to the world that the United States is serious about imposing sanctions on Turkey.

So let me close. The United States of America must always stand on the side of democracy, human rights, freedom, and the rule of law. That is why we must secure our elections from the threat of foreign interference at home and defend democracies in the face of Russian aggression abroad.

That is why we must demand that security funding appropriated by Congress is actually delivered and that the sanctions we craft to counter our adversaries are imposed.

That is why we cannot be silent when an American President extorts foreign countries into influencing our elections or welcomes an authoritarian strongman’s return to the G7.

I implore my colleagues to use the powers of Article I of the Constitution. We have to get to the bottom of these very issues and preserve the critical checks and balances we have in our National Security Council.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas, Mr. COPTON.

Mr. COPTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the manda-

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Cloture Motion

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Brian McGuire, of New York, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury.


The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Brian McGuire, of New York, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury, shall be brought to a close? The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).
Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 82, nays 6, as follows:

[Roll Call Vote No. 294 Ex.]

YEAS—82

Boogertown in Eastern Tennessee, in the Smoky Mountains, where Dolly Parton was born, to the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville and to Beale Street in Memphis.

We like to say that the whole world listens to country music. But country music is more than Tennessee music. It is more than Appalachian music. It is more than the music of poor white Americans. It comes from the heart.

As Burns’ and Duncan’s storytelling reminds us, every one of us has a heart. There is no better evidence of this than paying less than $20 to sit at a table at the Bluebird Cafe in Nashville. There you listen to three songwriters tell the stories behind their songs and play them for a small audience who doesn’t even whisper during their performances.

I sat at the Bluebird on a Saturday in 2013, listening to a young songwriter, Jessi Alexander, sing her song, “I Drive Your Truck.” One of her cowriters, Connie Harrington, had heard the story on NPR. It was the story of Jared Monti, an American soldier killed in Afghanistan trying to save another soldier. He won a Congressional Medal of Honor for that. To remember his son, she and her partner, Jared’s Dodge Ram truck because, the father says, “I am alone, in the truck, with him.” When Jessi Alexander finished singing, everyone in the Bluebird was weeping. I said to the person next to me, “That has to be the song of the year.” And it was.

Last week, I attended the Annual Nashville Songwriter Awards show. I looked through the program listing all of the previous songs of the year. In 2012, it was Dolly Parton’s farewell song to Porter Wagoner, “I Will Always Love You.” Dolly Parton is a great songwriter too. In 2003, it was “Three Wooden Crosses.” In 1972, it was “Old Dogs, Children, and Watermelon Wine.” But then, in 1969, it was “Ol’ Kie from Muskogee,” by Merle Haggard. “Three chords and the truth” is how songwriter Harlan Howard defines country music.

Ken Burns has become America’s storyteller, a skill much more difficult than it would seem. He tackles the storytelling, a skill much more difficult than it would seem. He tackles the subjects that divide us, like the Civil War and Vietnam, and he presents them in a form that allows us to travel through those wrenching experiences, gathering the information we need to form our own opinions.

One could argue that Ken Burns is our most effective teacher of U.S. history, a subject woefully undertaught in our schools. The lowest scores on high school Advanced Placement tests are not in math and science. They are in American history. So I am glad to know that there is more of Ken Burns’ work to come.

According to a New Yorker article in 2017, during the next decade Burns plans to produce films about the Mayo Clinic, Muhammad Ali, Ernest Hemingway, the American Revolution, Lyndon B. Johnson, Barack Obama, Winston Churchill, the American criminal justice system, and African-American history from the Civil War to the Great Migration.

Producing these films must cost a lot of money, but, in my view, every penny that the Public Broadcasting System and private contributors have spent has been worth it. If I had the money, I would ask Burns how much time he will spend raising funds to pay for these next films and I would give him the amount of money that it would take so that he could spend that time producing an extra three or four more films before he hangs it up. Since I don’t have the money, maybe someone else will do that.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be printed in the RECORD an op-ed that was in the New York Times, “Country Music Is More Diverse Than You Think,” by Ken Burns and Dayton Duncan. There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, Sept. 13, 2018] COUNTRY MUSIC IS MORE DIVERSE THAN YOU THINK

COMMON STEREOTYPES OVERLOOK THE ROLES THAT BLACKS AND WOMEN HAVE PLAYED IN SHAPING A UNIQUELY AMERICAN GENRE

(By Ken Burns and Dayton Duncan)

This spring the rapper Lil Nas X, who is black, released “Old Town Road,” a twang-inflected song that rocketed to the top of the country music charts—even though Billboard temporarily removed it from its airplay list, saying it wasn’t sufficiently “country.”

A few months later, when the Country Music Association announced that three women—Dolly Parton, Reba McEntire and Carrie Underwood—would host its annual awards show, some people criticized the choice as political correctness, as if “real” country music was restricted to good old boys.

Both criticisms reflect the stereotypes that chronically surround country music. They overlook its diverse roots, its porous boundaries and the central role that women and people of color have played in its history.

Such narrow views would astonish the two of us learned during the eight years we spent exploring the music that has reverberated in our music ever since.

The earliest country recordings were known as “hillbilly” music, just as African-American recordings were categorized as “race” music. The names echoed a prevailing assumption that each genre (“hillbilly” and its fans) was somehow beneath consideration from society’s upper rungs—and that each one was unrelated to the other.

In truth, as the two of us learned during the eight years we spent exploring the music and its history, they were always interconnected. The music that most loved the racial divide that a segregated nation tried to enforce...
Before his career took off, Rodgers worked as a water boy in Mississippi for the mostly black crews laying railroad track. The men he met, and their music, shaped his own emerging style. When he got married, he moved to New York City, where he aimed at living like an adult were essentially the blues, to which he added a distinctive yodel. In 1930, at the height of his popularity, he recorded with Louis Armstrong, the prototypical jazz artist.

When A.P. Carter collected songs for the Carter Family, he brought along Lesley Riddle, a 15-year-old slide guitar player, to help him remember the melodies. Riddle also taught the Carters a hymn from his church, “When the World’s on Fire,” which they recorded. They put their own spin on another popular song, “Little Darling, Pal of Mine.” Years later Woody Guthrie, a fan of the Carters, borrowed the melody for his classic “This Land Is Your Land.” The song’s journey encapsulates the real, interconnected story of American music.

Bill Monroe, the father of bluegrass, was mentored by an African-American fiddle player. Hank Williams, the great honky-tonk singer, credited Tee-Tot Payne, a black street musician in Alabama, for his ability to “remember the melodies. Riddle also taught the Carters a hymn from his church, “When the World’s on Fire,” which they recorded. They put their own spin on another popular song, “Little Darling, Pal of Mine.” Years later Woody Guthrie, a fan of the Carters, borrowed the melody for his classic “This Land Is Your Land.” The song’s journey encapsulates the real, interconnected story of American music.

In 1966, the same year that the National Organization for Women was founded, the phrase “women’s liberation” was first used, and its meaning was essentially the blues, to which he added a distinctive yodel. In 1930, at the height of his popularity, he recorded with Louis Armstrong, the prototypical jazz artist.

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United States of America as the world’s dominant political, military, and economic power. Now, it is understandable why many Americans would feel uneasy at the prospect of being supplanted by China. First, we have seen so many of our industries that once thrived in our towns and cities weaken or leave altogether, and they have read about the grotesque violation of human rights and dignity of people and China’s Communist Party’s persecution of Christian minorities, and other religious minorities.

The sad fact is that we have come to this realization far too late in this city. For many years, many of the policy elites across the political spectrum turned a blind eye to this growing threat. There was this notion that, once China became rich and prosperous, they would become like us. It is as if somehow economic prosperity, in the sense and in the way China is achieving it, politically undermines the supporting values such as the ones that we hold dear. But the fact is that we can no longer ignore the reality that this is not the direction that China is headed, and it has implications for our country and the world.

Our country, our workers, and families can no longer afford elected officials in this city who turn a blind eye to the seriousness of this challenge. At this point, given all the information before us and the trends that have clearly emerged, ignorance on this matter is no longer an excuse, and, frankly, the Communist Party of China is no longer hiding its ambition about what this is all about.

I am not asking you to believe my words on this. I just ask that you believe them, that you take their words seriously. That is why I come here to point to a speech last week by Huang Qifan, who is a former Central Committee member and the vice chair of the National People’s Congress Financial and Economic Affairs Committee. He showed us, by the way, what passes as modernization within the Chinese Communist Party. In the speech he gave, he didn’t speak in the typical Communist jargon. He doesn’t invoke abstract theories or laws of history or in any way hold back. He speaks with a frankness that we should actually be grateful for because it enlightens us and hopefully propels us toward the right action. To Huang, as he makes very clear, the trade war that is ongoing is a fight to the death, an inevitable outcome in a fight between two systems.

Paraphrasing Mao Zedong, he urged Chinese businesspeople to shed their illusions and prepare for struggle. China is the rising power. The United States is the aging hegemon, and China’s rise will be sustained. Huang declared, “At this time, the socialist road with Chinese characteristics is obviously more competitive. . . than the U.S. economic system.”

Such confident words are not just his; they emanate from the very top. Just after gaining power, their current President, apparently for life, Xi Jinping, told the party it is “inevitable that the superiority of our socialist system will be increasingly apparent.”

The time has come for America and our allies, who value freedom and liberty and free enterprise, democracy, human rights, and the dignity of all people—the time has come for us to eagerly confront this assertion. Unfortunately, there are too many in the Western world and in the free world that refuse to see the challenges, indeed, the threat that is posed by the Communist Party and China’s vision of the world in the future.

Rather than discuss the technical threat posed by an entity like Huawei, I want to articulate the threat in China’s Communist Party’s words, the threat in their own words, as Qifan said last week: “Our currency will become the world currency.”

Understand the implications of this stated goal. China’s aim is to use economic power to displace the United States of America and the role it has played in the world since the end of the Cold War. The new message to the world is that its industries, its workers, and its politics will be more productive than ours. The Chinese Communist Party says to foreign countries, to investors, and to businesses that the long-term play to keep their economies growing is by partnering with them, not partnering with us.

Some may say, What is the big deal about that? Let’s just take care of our own problems. Here is the big deal. Here is what it would mean for American firms in real terms. If the world heads in the direction they advocate, it would mean lower wages for you, it would mean homes and mortgages that are unaffordable, and it would mean a world where what you can say and do abroad but also at home is increasingly dictated by the Chinese Communist Party and its benefactors in the United States and elsewhere.

We should clearly understand that the Communist Party of China’s misdirection they term “national rejuvenation” of Chinese power and China’s prominent place on the world stage, means supplanting our values and our way of life. As Xi Jinping explained 2 years ago, this goal is the original aspiration and mission of the party.

What is our model? Well, it is incumbent upon us as Americans and as leaders and our democratic allies around the world to make the case that our model, that defends our interests and religious liberty, democracy and human rights, and the rule of law, which means consistently standing up for nations committed to these same ideals and standing with people who are fighting for these values and being crushed by totalitarianism anywhere in the world.

By the way, in the 20th century and the 21st century, American leadership
brought peace. After the carnage of the first half of the last century, the United States has led the world to avoid open great power conflict, and it meant historically little bloodshed and deep international stability compared to previous eras.

The international system that America helped craft and lead comes with a promise of multilateral security, and that is why we must remain wholly committed to protecting our allies. We spared no cost to help them rebuild to defend themselves and to protect the dignity of their citizens. The Chinese Communist Party, on the other hand, cannot conceive of a world that is not driven by status and hierarchy. They are not partners, and they view no one as partners. They view them as vassal states. So this progress, even to someone like Huang Qifan, is a hidden plot to suppress others.

So we must be absolutely clear as to why China is an untrustworthy partner in any endeavor, whether it is a nation-state project, in an industrial capacity, or financial integration. They have a neocolonial project, Uni-Belt and Road Initiative, which follows a very consistent playbook: Approach nations with promises of lucrative state projects, exploit corruption, bleed those nations dry, and then hijack their domestic infrastructure. In the case of Huawei, what it means is the de facto takeover of wide swathes of their political system after a project sputtered and Beijing seized the port.

Beijing is ultimately an untrustworthy partner in international commitments. We have seen this repeatedly in the Asia-Pacific where they have flagrantly violated international agreements and obligations in Hong Kong and Taiwan. We see it right off the coast of Vietnam and the Philippines, where Beijing is literally building artificial islands to substantiate territorial claims.

Chinese leaders have long claimed to never seek hegemony, and yet the bullying they perpetrate is real. They justify it on the grounds that China deserves respect because of its power and position. Doing business in China is not just like here or anywhere else. It is not business between two private companies. It means doing business with companies backed by, sponsored by, and protected by the Chinese Communist Party.

Today’s China, governed by the Chinese Communist Party, is not playing by any rules. It is a predatory state in nature, and it actively seeks to supplant not just the United States but a global order based on democracy, human rights, and the dignity of all.

Since their induction into the World Trade Organization in 2001, China has shown itself to be anything but a responsible global partner. This is a dangerous prescient example of conflict, and that is what China’s leaders are preparing for. Xi put the party on notice in 2013, saying that China “must diligently prepare for a long period of cooperation and conflict” with capitalist democracies.

If anything, the intervening years have strengthened this conviction. Huang told business leaders that Americans “want your life.” He calls it an illusion that “some small amount of money” would resolve the trade war. “We do not want to fight but are not afraid to fight,” Huang concluded, once again quoting Mao.

China clearly sees this moment—these decades, really—as their opportunity to supplant America from its global leadership role. Conflict, armed or otherwise, is an inevitable byproduct of that progression.

America, as Huang noted, has been the “world’s leader for decades,” and we have used that power to build an international system that prioritizes fundamental human rights, open democratic governance, and liberal economies, all the things that the Communist Party of China believes represent weakness.

So we must be absolutely clear as to what that means. If China becomes the world’s dominant economic power, they will become the world’s dominant military power; they will become the world’s dominant financial power; and they will become the world’s dominant cultural power. Given their critique—and I would say disdain—of our system, we can expect that a future such as that will look much different than the reality we live in now.

If China supplants America in the West, the world that our children will inherit will be nothing like the one we grew up in and know. Instead of exploiting China’s brand of authoritarism country by country, as they do now, China will be positioned to reorient the entire globe, the application of the party’s governance at home applied on a global scale to the way countries interact with one another.

Let me close with the prophetic words of a Chinese dissident, Wei Jingsheng. In his testimony before Congress in the year 2000, against and in opposition to China’s ascension to the WTO, he said:

If the United States will not fight the world’s largest tyranny politically, then inevitably it will have to fight it economically, and eventually, militarily. Therefore, the only way to preserve peace and freedom begins by comprehending democracy’s greatest enemy, and countering it effectively.

Blissful ignorance is no longer an option. We cannot overlook the obvious signs in favor of near-term economic gains. The world has reached a crossroads, one in which our inability to act will usher in a Chinese century, and that will have disastrous consequences.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture motions for the Cella, Jordani, and Black nominations ripen at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 24; I further ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, following the cloture vote on the Black nomination, that the Senate resume consideration of the McGuire nomination, and that at 3:30 p.m., all postcloture time on the McGuire, Cella, Jordani, and Black nominations be considered expired; finally, I ask unanimous consent that if any of the nominations are confirmed, that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s actions.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senator McCaskill to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.
60TH ANNIVERSARY OF MOTOWN

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 60th anniversary of Motown and remarkable life of Berry Gordy, Jr. His achievement and the most significant musical accomplishments of the 20th century. Motown is the sound that changed America; it broke barriers between people and united fans of every race and creed.

Mr. Gordy was born in 1929 to a middle-class family on the east side of Detroit. At first, Mr. Gordy pursued his dreams to become a professional boxer and boxed until 1950 when he was drafted to serve his country in the Korean war. After returning from Korea in 1953, Mr. Gordy began to pursue his passion for music by opening a record store, and then went on to work at the Ford Lincoln-Mercury Plant.

In 1959, Gordy founded Tamla Records that would go on to become Motown after he received an $800 loan and moved to 2648 W. Grand Blvd, also known as Hitsville U.S.A. Due to Detroit being known as the Motor City, Mr. Gordy, in tribute to what he felt was a city of warm, soulful people and Detroit being his hometown, decided the perfect name for his company and new label would be “Motown.”

Smoky Robinson and Berry Gordy formed an early partnership and co-wrote Motown Records’ first smash-hit “Shop Around,” recorded by The Miracles, which would go on to be Motown’s first million-record selling record. Soon, other acts would follow, including legendary artists such as the Supremes, the Four Tops, Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder, and the Temptations, all discovered by Mr. Gordy.

In the 1960s alone, Motown Records had over 75 records in the top 10 of the Billboard pop charts. In the 1970s, Motown moved to California and continued to create hits with a Detroit sound by groups such as the Jackson 5 and the Commodores. With so many music legends, Motown has often been considered one of the greatest labels of all time.

In 1998, Mr. Gordy was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as founder and helmsman of the Motown music empire.

In addition to music, Mr. Gordy produced films such as the Oscar-nominated, “Lady Day Sings the Blues” and “Mahogany,” both starring Motown icon Diana Ross. In 2013, Mr. Gordy went on to write and produce “Motown: the Musical,” to tell his story and the story of Motown Records. “Motown: the Musical” went on to play 738 Broadway performances, and have massively successful national tours and international productions.

Mr. Gordy founded an American music institution that exemplifies the unity that must exist in our country and created a sound that still moves the Motor City today. Motown’s music has become a genre all its own and has grown to be beloved all over the world. Motown music helped break barriers, and it is my hope that the legacy of Barry Gordy, Jr., and Motown will inspire the next generation of leaders to follow their passion and change the world.

RECOGNIZING MELAO BAKERY

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, as chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I highlight a small business that demonstrates consistent hard work, a commitment to excellent customer service, and a desire to give back to the Florida community. Today, it is my honor to name Melao Bakery as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Founded in 2009, Melao Bakery is a family-owned and operated restaurant run by Eduardo Colon and Denisse Torres. Originally from Puerto Rico, Eduardo and Denisse have created a place where families can enjoy traditional Puerto Rican cuisine in Kissimmee, FL, a city many Puerto Ricans call home. Melao has grown from a small bakery in central Florida with seven employees into a full-menu restaurant employing more than 150 people at its two locations in Kissimmee and Orlando. Melao Bakery is known for its commitment to exemplary customer service and for providing an authentic, traditional experience for its customers.

Eduardo and Denisse arrived in Florida 17 years ago from Vega Baja, PR. In Vega Baja, the couple owned a bakery but made the decision to move to Florida, with their 1-year-old son, in search of new opportunities. When Eduardo and Denisse settled in Kissimmee, they did not move to open the bakery immediately; Eduardo studied to pass truck driving exams, and through hard work, he was able to establish his own heavy transport company.

Melao Bakery not only provides delicious pastries and cuisine, but it also serves as a meeting place for local Hispanics. They have since expanded their vision through the acquisition of the shopping center where Melao Bakery is located. Their mission in business has been honored for maintaining a strong sense of Hispanic heritage by the grassroots organization, the Libre Initiative. In 2012, Melao Bakery was also recognized by the Kissimmee Chamber of Commerce as the first Hispanic business to win its annual Small Business of the Year award. In 2014, Melao Bakery was presented with the Governor’s Business Ambassador Award for its leadership in creating employment opportunities in central Florida. Additionally, Melao Bakery has won awards for the quality of its food, such as Best Latin Restaurant in the Osceola community.

Eduardo and Denisse have made significant efforts to better the lives of those in their community, both in Florida and in Puerto Rico. After Hurricane Irma hit Puerto Rico in 2017, Eduardo and Denisse donated dozens of generators to help survivors get their businesses back online. Their dedication to preserving the culture and heritage of Puerto Rico in central Florida has created a loyal customer base and has made Melao Bakery a community staple. Melao Bakery is a shining example of how dedicated work can lead to grassroots engagement and successful business expansion. As we celebrate Hispanic Heritage month, I am proud to highlight Melao Bakery for their dedication to Florida’s Hispanic community.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNIVISION ARIZONA

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. President, today I recognize the 40th anniversary of Univision Arizona. As one of Arizona’s leading television networks, Univision Arizona has been on the front lines of delivering important news to our State, earning nationwide recognition by winning 23 Emmy Awards this year. Throughout its 40-year history, Univision Arizona has evolved and adapted to the needs of its viewers by crafting engaging content and shedding light on important stories that deserve to be heard.

As the leading source of Spanish-language media and news in our State, Univision Arizona serves 1.6 million Arizonans through two television stations, four radio stations, and other digital and social platforms. With the fast-changing pace of news and technology, Univision Arizona has grown into an innovative news source, while maintaining and staying true to its original mission.

Univision Arizona serves all Arizonans, especially the Hispanic community, which has richly contributed to our State. I am proud to recognize Univision Arizona’s 40th anniversary milestone, while celebrating the contributions of Arizona’s Hispanic community during Hispanic Heritage Month. Univision Arizona’s mission, its dedicated reporters and staff, and the stories they share are truly representative of the profound and powerful role the Hispanic community plays in our State.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2019, the Secretary of the Senate, on September 20, 2019, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills:
S. 163. An act to prevent catastrophic failure or shutdown of remote diesel power engines due to emission control devices, and for other purposes.

S. 1869. An act to permit States to transfer certain funds from the clean water revolving fund of a State to the drinking water revolving fund of the State in certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 239. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of Christia McAuliffe.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 550. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States Merchant Mariners of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated and vital service during World War II.

H.R. 1396. An act to award Congressional Gold Medals to Katherine Johnson and Dr. Christine Darden, to posthumously award Congressional Gold Medals to Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson, and to award a Congressional Gold Medal to honor all of the women who contributed to the success of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration during the Space Race.

H.R. 2290. An act to require the Federal financial regulators to issue guidance encouraging financial institutions to work with consumers and businesses affected by a Federal Government shutdown, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2613. An act to require the Director of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network to carry out a study on the use of emerging technologies within the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 3619. An act to amend the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 to provide the Appraisal Subcommittee with the authority to modify annual registry fees for appraisal management companies, to maintain a registry of appraisers and potential appraisers in compliance with the Real Property Appraiser Qualification Criteria, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

S. 163. An act to prevent catastrophic failure or shutdown of remote diesel power engines due to emission control devices, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 550. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States Merchant Mariners of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated and vital service during World War II; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 1396. An act to award Congressional Gold Medals to Katherine Johnson and Dr. Christine Darden, to posthumously award Congressional Gold Medals to Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson, and to award a Congressional Gold Medal to honor all of the women who contributed to the success of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration during the Space Race.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, September 23, 2019, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 163. An act to prevent catastrophic failure or shutdown of remote diesel power engines due to emission control devices, and for other purposes.

S. 1869. An act to permit States to transfer certain funds from the clean water revolving fund of a State to the drinking water revolving fund of the State in certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with amendments and an amendment to the title:

S. 734. A bill to leverage Federal Government procurement power to encourage increased cybersecurity for Internet of Things devices, with amendments and an amendment to the title (Rept. No. 116–112).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with amendments and an amendment to the title:

S. 2183. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to analyze certain legislation in order to prevent duplication of and overlap with existing Federal programs, offices, and initiatives (Rept. No. 116–113).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. EINSTEIN, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2529. A bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to modify provisions relating to whistleblower incentives and protection, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. PERDUE (for himself, Mr. JONES, Mr. TILLIS, and Mrs. CAPITTO):

S. 2530. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a School Safety Clearinghouse, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. FISCHER, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. Res. 322. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of September 16 to September 22 as Rail Safety Week in the United States, and supporting the goals and ideals of Rail Safety Week to
reduce rail-related accidents, fatalities, and injuries; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. CASEY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. JONES, Mr. BROWN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. KASICH, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. Res. 323. A resolution designating September 2019 as National Kinship Care Month; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 208

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 208, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either required pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 296

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 296, a bill to amend XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 427

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 427, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance activities of the National Institutes of Health with respect to research on autism spectrum disorder and enhance programs relating to autism, and for other purposes.

S. 460

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 460, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion for employer-provided education assistance to employer payments of student loans.

S. 560

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) were added as cosponsors of S. 560, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans provide coverage for treatment of a congenital anomaly or birth defect.

S. 622

At the request of Mr. JONES, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 622, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 633

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 633, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Women's Army Corps who were assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, known as the "Six Triple Eight".

S. 634

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 634, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish tax credits to encourage individual and corporate taxpayers to contribute to scholarships for students through eligible scholarship-granting organizations and eligible workforce training organizations, and for other purposes.

S. 737

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 737, a bill to direct the National Science Foundation to support STEM education research focused on early childhood.

S. 892

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOHER), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. S金钱), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 892, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the women in the United States who joined the workforce during World War II, providing the aircraft, vehicles, weaponry, ammunition, and other materials to win the war, that were referred to as "Rosie the Riveter", in recognition of their contributions to the United States and the inspiration they have provided to ensuing generations.

S. 903

At the request of Ms. MCSALLY, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 903, a bill to direct the Secretary of Energy to establish advanced nuclear goals, provide for a versatile, reactor-based fast neutron source, make available high-assay uranium for research, development, and demonstration of advanced nuclear reactor concepts, and for other purposes.

S. 948

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 948, a bill to provide incentives for physicians to practice in rural and medically underserved communities, and for other purposes.

S. 1048

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1048, a bill to add a provision to the Public Health Service Act to provide for a Reducing Youth Use of E-Cigarettes Initiative.

S. 1060

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1060, a bill to deter foreign interference in United States elections, and for other purposes.

S. 1141

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1141, a bill to provide predictability and certainty in the tax law, create jobs, and encourage investment.

S. 1191

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1191, a bill to reauthorize section 340B of the Public Health Service Act to continue to encourage the expansion, maintenance, and establishment of approved graduate medical residency programs at qualified teaching health centers, and for other purposes.

S. 1222

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1222, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide hospital care and medical services to veterans in the Freely Associated States of the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia, and to conduct a study on the feasibility and advisability of establishing regional offices, subofices, contact units, or other subordinate offices of the Department of Veterans Affairs in the Freely Associated States to provide such care and services, and for other purposes.

S. 1253

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1253, a bill to apply requirements relating to delivery sales of cigarettes to delivery sales of electronic nicotine delivery systems, and for other purposes.

S. 1260

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Maryland
Mr. VAN HOLLEN was added as a co-sponsor of S. 1268, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure that hospitals receive adequate payment for the acquisition of hematopoietic stem cells under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 1300

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 1300, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint a coin in commemoration of the opening of the National Law Enforcement Museum in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

S. 1990

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 1990, a bill to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to authorize rewards for thwarting wildlife trafficking linked to transnational organized crime, and for other purposes.

S. 1602

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 1602, a bill to amend the United States Energy Storage Competitiveness Act of 2007 to establish a research, development, and demonstration program for grid-scale energy storage systems, and for other purposes.

S. 1723

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 1723, a bill to amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to provide for the establishment of a Ski Area Fee Retention Account.

S. 1791

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 1791, a bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of religion, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), and marital status in the administration and provision of child welfare services, to improve safety, well-being, and permanency for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer or questioning foster youth, and for other purposes.

S. 1821

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 1821, a bill to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to provide for research on, and the development and deployment of, marine energy, and for other purposes.

S. 1841

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 1841, a bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the distribution of 3D printer plans for the printing of firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 1862

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKET) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 1862, a bill to limit the fees charged and collected from applicants for naturalization and related benefits based on poverty, and for other purposes.

S. 1982

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 1982, a bill to improve efforts to combat marine debris, and for other purposes.

S. 2041

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2041, a bill to posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Glen Doherty, Tyrone Woods, J. Christopher Stevens, and Sean Smith, in recognition of their contributions to the Nation.

S. 2067

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2067, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to encourage States to disregard parental income and assets when determining Medicaid eligibility for disabled children.

S. 2074

At the request of Mr. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2074, a bill to amend section 303(g) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 823(g)) to eliminate the separate registration requirement for dispensing for hospice care, in schedule III, IV, or V, such as buprenorphine, for maintenance or detoxification treatment, and for other purposes.

S. 2080

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2080, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of permanent facility in palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic medical schools and schools of social work schools, and other programs, including physician assistant education programs, to promote education and research in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine.

S. 2102

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2102, a bill to provide funding for programs and activities under the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act.

S. 2158

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2158, a bill to improve certain programs of the Department of Health and Human Services with respect to heritable disorders.

S. 2160

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2160, a bill to require carbon monoxide alarms in certain federally assisted housing, and for other purposes.

S. 2179

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2179, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to provide social service agencies with the resources to implement programs to meet the urgent needs of Holocaust survivors to age in place with dignity, comfort, security, and quality of life.

S. 2268

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2268, a bill to amend title VI of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to establish a Federal energy efficiency resource standard for electricity and natural gas suppliers, and for other purposes.

S. 2287

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2287, a bill to enhance global engagement to combat marine debris, and for other purposes.

S. 2372

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2372, a bill to enhance global engagement to combat marine debris, and for other purposes.

S. 2494

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. Casey) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. Kennedy) were added as cosponsors of S. 2493, a bill to establish the National Criminal Justice Commission.
At the request of Mr. Markey, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. Hassan) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2461, a bill to designate a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.

At the request of Mr. Hoeven, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. Thune) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2479, a bill to provide clarification regarding the common or usual name for bison and compliance with section 403 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. Hirono, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. Boozman) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2489, a bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to extend the authority for financial assistance for supportive services for very low-income veteran families in permanent housing, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Udall, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. Klobuchar) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2491, a bill to terminate certain rules issued by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce relating to endangered and threatened species, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Casey, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. Shaheen) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2496, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the Medicare and disability insurance benefits waiting periods for disabled individuals.

At the request of Mr. Scott of Florida, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. Blackburn) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2502, a bill to ban the Federal procurement of certain drones and other unmanned aircraft systems, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Markey, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. Heinrich) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. Udall) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 59, a resolution recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal.

At the request of Mr. Braun, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. Kennedy) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 215, a resolution calling for greater religious and political freedoms in Cuba, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mrs. Feinstein, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. Brown) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. Carper) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 252, a resolution designating September 2019 as National Democracy Month as a time to reflect on the contributions of the system of government of the United States to a more free and stable world.

At the request of Mr. Hawley, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. Cotton) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. Kennedy) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 303, a resolution calling upon the leadership of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to dismantle its kwang-i-ri labor camp system, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mrs. Feinstein, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. Braun) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 304, a resolution designating September 2019 as “National Workforce Development Month”.

At the request of Mrs. Feinstein, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. Braun) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 309, a resolution designating September 2019 as “National Voting Rights Month”.

At the request of Mrs. Hyde-Smith, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. Warren) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 313, a resolution designating the week of September 22 through September 28, 2019, as “Gold Star Families Awareness Week”.

At the request of Mr. Cruz, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 313, supra.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 322—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 22 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 28, 2019, AS RAIL SAFETY WEEK IN THE UNITED STATES, AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF RAIL SAFETY WEEK TO REDUCE RAIL-RELATED ACCIDENTS, FATALITIES, AND INJURIES

Mr. Wicker (for himself, Ms. Cantwell, Mrs. Fischer, and Ms. Duckworth) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

Whereas the first Rail Safety Week was held from September 24 through September 30, 2017, by the national education safety nonprofit Operation Lifesaver, the Department of Transportation, and other organizations;

Whereas Rail Safety Week was launched to raise awareness about the need for increased education on how to be safe around highway-rail grade crossings and railroad tracks, and to highlight efforts to further reduce collisions, injuries, and fatalities;

Whereas highway-rail grade crossing and trespassing accidents constituted approximately 96 percent of all rail related fatalities during 2018; Whereas since 2005, the number of public crossings has declined by 8 percent, while the number of gates at such crossings has increased by 26 percent; Whereas, in 2018, 51 percent of all grade crossing collisions and 64 percent of all fatal grade crossing collisions occurred at gated crossings; Whereas, in 2018, there were a total of 841 rail-related fatalities and 8,177 rail-related injuries in the United States; Whereas preliminary Federal statistics show that 2,216 highway-grade crossing crashes occurred during 2018, resulting in 363 persons killed and another 440 persons injured throughout the United States; Whereas trespassing incidents on railroad property resulted in 571 persons killed and another 479 injured across the Nation in 2018; Whereas many collisions between trains and motor vehicles or pedestrians could have been prevented by increased education, engineering, and enforcement; Whereas Operation Lifesaver, the foremost public information and education program on rail safety, administers a public education program about grade-crossing safety and prevention of trespassing; Whereas during Rail Safety Week, from September 22 through September 28, 2019, and throughout the year, everyone is encouraged to observe added caution as motorists or pedestrians approach tracks or trains; Whereas, the United States and Canada will observe Rail Safety Week concurrently; and

Whereas this important observance should lead to greater safety awareness and a reduction in highway-rail grade crossing crashes and pedestrian and railroad incidents: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of Rail Safety Week; and

(2) expresses strong support for—

(A) the goals and ideals of Rail Safety Week; and

(B) efforts to reduce rail-related accidents, fatalities, and injuries; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States—

(A) to participate in Rail Safety Week events and activities; and

(B) to educate themselves and others on how to be safe around railroad tracks.

SENATE RESOLUTION 323—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2019 AS “NATIONAL KINSHIP CARE MONTH”

Mr. Wyden (for himself, Mr. Grassley, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Casey, Ms. Hassan, Mr. Jones, Mr. Brown, Ms. Klobuchar, Ms. Sinema, Mr. Schumer, Ms. Baldwin, Mr. Young, Mr. Kaine, Mr. Daines, and Mr. Van Hollen) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

Whereas in September 2019, “National Kinship Care Month” is observed; Whereas nationally, 2,700,000 children are living in kinship care with grandparents, other relatives, and family friends; Whereas nationally, nearly ¾ of all foster care placements are in kinship foster care, with 140,000 children placed with grandparents, other relatives, and family friends; Whereas more than 360,000 kinship children live in informal kinship care outside of the foster care system;
Whereas the percentage of children who are in kinship foster care has increased by almost 10 percent since 2006;

Whereas the number of children placed in foster care continues to increase due in part to the opioid crisis and child welfare agencies are increasingly reliant on families who take in kin;

Whereas while kinship care is the most common term for relative caregivers of children, they are sometimes also referred to as kin caregivers or grandfamilies;

Whereas kinship caregivers residing in urban, rural, and suburban households in every state and territory of the United States have stepped forward out of love and loyalty for children during times in which parents are unable to do so;

Whereas kinship caregivers provide safety, promote well-being, and establish stable households for vulnerable children;

Whereas kinship care homes offer a refuge for traumatized children;

Whereas kinship care enables a child to maintain family relationships and cultural heritage and remain in the community of the child;

Whereas the wisdom and compassion of kinship caregivers is a source of self-reliance and strength for countless children and for the entire United States;

Whereas children in kinship care experience improved placement stability, higher levels of permanency, and decreased behavioral problems relative to other children in foster care;

Whereas kinship caregivers face daunting challenges to keep children from entering foster care;

Whereas because of parental substance use disorders and other adverse childhood experiences, children in kinship care frequently have trauma-related conditions;

Whereas many kinship caregivers give up their retirement years to assume parenting duties for children;

Whereas the Senate wishes to honor the many kinship caregivers who throughout the history of the United States have provided loving homes for children;

Whereas the first President of the United States, George Washington, and his wife Martha were themselves kinship caregivers, as were many other great people of the United States;

Whereas the Senate is proud to recognize the many kinship care families in which a child is raised by grandparents, other relatives, and family friends;

Whereas National Kinship Care Month provides an opportunity to urge people in every state to join in recognizing and celebrating kinship caregiving families and the tradition of families in the United States helping kin;

Whereas in 2018, Congress provided for kinship navigator programs and services in the Family First Prevention Services Act enacted under title VII of division E of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–121; 132 Stat. 64) and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141; 132 Stat. 51);

Whereas in 2018, Congress provided for the formation of the Advisory Council to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren to examine the needs of grandparents and other kinship caregivers in the Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act (Public Law 115–196; 132 Stat. 1511); and

Whereas more remains to be done to support kinship caregiving and to ensure that all children have a safe, loving, nurturing, and permanent family, regardless of age or special needs, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2019 as “National Kinship Care Month”;

(2) encourages Congress, States, local governments, and community organizations to continue to work to improve the lives of vulnerable children and families and to support the communities working together to lift them up; and

(3) honors the commitment and dedication of kinship caregivers and the advocates and allies who tirelessly to provide assistance and services to kinship caregiving families.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 940. Mr. RUBIO (for Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. Lee)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1340, to authorize activities to combat the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 940. Mr. RUBIO (for Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. Lee)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1340, to authorize activities to combat the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 7, strike lines 12 through 25 and insert the following:

(a) In General.—Notwithstanding section 110 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107), and subject to the availability of appropriations, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall immediately provide targeted foreign assistance under chapters 1 and 10 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2551 et seq.; 22 U.S.C. 2293 et seq.) for global health and activities necessary to respond to the threat posed by Ebola, and under chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2346 et seq.), to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, and Burundi to effectively combat the Ebola outbreak that began in August 2018, including water and sanitation infrastructures, health delivery, nutrition, logistics, public messaging and other critical activities necessary for ending the outbreak. Such assistance shall be provided at levels commensurate with the scale of the threat posed by the Ebola outbreak and conduct activities necessary for an effective response. Activities to expand and improve access to communities heavily affected by the Ebola outbreak should be prioritized under this section.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EXPANDING AUTHORITIES ACT OF 2019

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4285, which was received from the House.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk reads as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4285) to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend and modify certain authorities and requirements relating to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

EBOLA ERADICATION ACT OF 2019

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the order of August 1, 2019, the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 102, S. 1340.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk reads as follows:

A bill (S. 1340) to authorize activities to combat the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The current Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which began in August 2018 in eastern Congo, is the second largest in history and has resulted in over 1,600 cases and 1,000 deaths.

(2) Despite the use of preventive tools and new therapeutics, insecurity and community resistance to response efforts remain major obstacles to ending the current Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the outbreak continues to spread.

(3) Hospitals, health clinics, and Ebola clinics have been repeatedly attacked by armed actors.

(4) On February 28, 2019, Doctors Without Borders suspended its work in Ebola epicenters after two treatment centers on Foreign Relations, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Ebola Eradication Act of 2019”.
(7) It is in the national interest of the United States to help control and end the current Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo before it spreads.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 110(d)(5)(B) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107), and subject to the availability of appropriations, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall immediately provide assistance, including targeted foreign assistance under chapters 1 and 10 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.), for global health and activities necessary to respond to the threat posed by Ebola, and under chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2293 et seq.), to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, and Burundi to effectively combat the Ebola outbreak that began in August 2018, including water and sanitation infrastructure, global health activities, public messaging and other critical activities necessary for ending the outbreak. Such assistance shall be provided at levels commensurate both to address the threat posed by the Ebola outbreak and activities necessary for an effective response. Activities to expand and improve access to communities heavily affected by the Ebola outbreak should be prioritized under this section.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report—

(1) describing the actions the Administrator has taken under section 3(a) to end the Ebola outbreak in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo; and

(2) proposing any additional legal authorities required to improve the response to the Ebola outbreak in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Mr. RUBIO. I further ask unanimous consent that the Menendez-Lee amendment at the desk be agreed to; that the committee-reported substitute, as amended, be agreed to; to the preamble be agreed to, and the consent that the resolution be agreed to, without intervening action or debate.

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

The amendment (No. 940) was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To modify the authority to provide assistance)

On page 7, strike lines 12 through 25 and insert the following:

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 110 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107), and subject to the availability of appropriations, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall immediately provide assistance, including targeted foreign assistance under chapters 1 and 10 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) for global health and activities necessary to respond to the threat posed by Ebola, and under chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2293 et seq.), to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, and Burundi to effectively combat the Ebola outbreak that began in August 2018, including water and sanitation infrastructure, global health activities, public messaging and other critical activities necessary for ending the outbreak. Such assistance shall be provided at levels commensurate both to address the threat posed by the Ebola outbreak and activities necessary for an effective response. Activities to expand and improve access to communities heavily affected by the Ebola outbreak should be prioritized under this section.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report—

(1) describing the actions the Administrator has taken under section 3(a) to end the Ebola outbreak in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo; and

(2) proposing any additional legal authorities required to improve the response to the Ebola outbreak in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

NATIONAL KINSHIP CARE MONTH

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 323, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 323) designating September 2019 as “National Kinship Care Month.”

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. RUBIO. I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the resolution 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. 323) was agreed to as follows:

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)
Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, September 24; 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 proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Cella nomination under the previous order; and finally, I ask that the Senate recess following the cloture vote on the Black nomination until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

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

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:53 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, September 24, 2019, at 10 a.m.
EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for publication in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, September 24, 2019 may be found in the Daily Digest of today’s RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 24
9:15 a.m.
Committee on Environment and Public Works
Business meeting to consider S. 2332, to provide for enhanced energy grid security and physical threat to, the electric power infrastructure in order to prevent terrorist acts, S. 2335, to facilitate smart grid technology, S. 1882, to search on, and the development and deployment of, marine energy, S. 1821, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide for energy efficiency via information and computing technologies.

10:15 a.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine pending nominations, S. 226.

10:30 a.m.
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine toxic exposure, focusing on examining the Department of Veterans Affairs’s presumptive disability decision-making process.

10:45 a.m.
Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine United States policy in Mexico and Central America, focusing on ensuring effective policies to address the crisis at the border.

10:50 a.m.
Special Committee on Aging
To hold hearings to examine promoting healthy aging, focusing on living your best life long into your golden years.

11:30 a.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
Business meeting to consider S. 1900, to amend the Department of Energy Organization Act to address insufficient compensation of employees and other personnel of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, S. 1860, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to modify the terms of the Jackson Gulch rehabilitation project in Colorado, S. 990, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the implementation of the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program First Increment Extension for threatened and endangered species in the Central and Lower Platte River Basin, S. 1570, to provide flexibility to allow greater aquifer recharge, S. 1602, to amend the United States Energy Storage Competitiveness Act of 2007 to establish a research, demonstration, and demonstration program for grid-scale energy storage systems, S. 1751, to amend the Reclamation Project Act of 1939 to authorize pumped storage hydropower development utilizing multiple Bureau of Reclamation reservoirs, S. 1758, to extend a repayment contract relating to the Purdue River Water Conservancy District and to authorize the District to develop an excess capacity contract to offset repayment costs, S. 1821, to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to provide for research on, and the development and deployment of, marine energy, S. 1882, to provide for energy efficiency via information and computing technologies.

SD–366

SD–226

SR–418

SD–562

SD–562
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine countering domestic terrorism, focusing on the evolving threat.

SEPTEMBER 23
10 a.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
Business meeting to consider S. 2132, to promote security and provide justice for United States victims of international terrorism, S. 2311, to amend title 40, United States Code, to provide the Marshal of the Supreme Court of the United States and Supreme Court Police with the authority to protect the Chief Justice of the United States, any Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, and other individuals in any location, and the nominations of Halil Suleyman Ozerden, of Mississippi, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, David B. Barlow, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah, John Fitzgerald Kness, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, R. Austin Huddaker, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama, Lee Philip Rudofsky, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas, Justin Reed Walker, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky, Eleni Maria Roumel, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims, Steven J. Menashi, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, Karen Spencer Marston, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Richard Earnest Myers II, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina, Anuraag Singhal, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, and Kenneth Charles Canterbury, Jr., of South Carolina, to be Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, and David M. DeVillers, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, both of the Department of Justice.

SEPTEMBER 26
10 a.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
Business meeting to consider S. 2132, to promote security and provide justice for United States victims of international terrorism, S. 2311, to amend title 40, United States Code, to provide the Marshal of the Supreme Court of the United States and Supreme Court Police with the authority to protect the Chief Justice of the United States, any Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, and other individuals in any location, and the nominations of Halil Suleyman Ozerden, of Mississippi, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, David B. Barlow, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah, John Fitzgerald Kness, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, R. Austin Huddaker, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama, Lee Philip Rudofsky, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas, Justin Reed Walker, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky, Eleni Maria Roumel, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims, Steven J. Menashi, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, Karen Spencer Marston, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Richard Earnest Myers II, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina, Anuraag Singhal, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, and Kenneth Charles Canterbury, Jr., of South Carolina, to be Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, and David M. DeVillers, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, both of the Department of Justice.

10:30 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Business meeting to markup an original bill making appropriations for Interior, Environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, an original bill making appropriations for Commerce, Justice, Science, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, an original bill making appropriations for Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and an original bill making appropriations for Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020.

2 p.m.
Select Committee on Intelligence
Closed business meeting to consider pending intelligence matters; to be immediately followed by a closed hearing to examine certain intelligence matters.

POSTPONEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 25
2:30 p.m.
Committee on Environment and Public Works
Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety
To hold hearings to examine reducing emissions while driving economic growth, focusing on industry-led initiatives.
Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S5617–S5634

Measures Introduced: Two bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2529–2530, and S. Res. 322–323. Pages S5628–29

Measures Reported:

S. 734, to leverage Federal Government procurement power to encourage increased cybersecurity for Internet of Things devices, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 116–112)

S. 2183, to require the Comptroller General of the United States to analyze certain legislation in order to prevent duplication of and overlap with existing Federal programs, offices, and initiatives, with amendments. (S. Rept. No. 116–113) Page S5628

Measures Passed:

Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act: Senate passed H.R. 4285, to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend and modify certain authorities and requirements relating to the Department of Veterans Affairs. Page S5632

Ebola Eradication Act: (A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding the order of August 1, 2019) Senate passed S. 1340, to authorize activities to combat the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and the following amendment proposed thereto:

Rubio (for Menendez/Lee) Amendment No. 940, to modify the authority to provide assistance. Pages S5632–33

National Kinship Care Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 323, designating September 2019 as “National Kinship Care Month”. Page S5633

McGuire Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Brian McGuire, of New York, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury. Pages S5620–23

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 82 yeas to 6 nays (Vote No. EX. 294), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. Pages S5622–23

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding Rule XXII, the motions to invoke cloture on the nominations of Joseph Cella, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Fiji, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of Nauru, the Kingdom of Tonga, and Tuvalu, Department of State, Daniel Habib Jorjani, of Kentucky, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior, and David Fabian Black, of North Dakota, to be Deputy Commissioner of Social Security, ripen at 11:30 a.m., on Tuesday, September 24, 2019; that notwithstanding Rule XXII, following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of David Fabian Black, Senate continue consideration of the nomination of Brian McGuire, of New York, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury, and that at 3:30 p.m., all post-cloture time on the nominations be considered expired.

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 10 a.m., Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Joseph Cella. Page S5634

Messages from the House: Pages S5627–28, S5628

Measures Referred: Page S5628

Measures Placed on the Calendar: Page S5628

Enrolled Bills Presented: Page S5628

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S5629–31

Additional Statements: Page S5627

Amendments Submitted: Page S5632

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—294) Page S5623
Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 6:53 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, September 24, 2019. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S5634.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. The House is scheduled to meet at 12 noon on Tuesday, September 24, 2019.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

H.R. 51: MAKING D.C. THE 51ST STATE

Committee On Oversight and Reform: On September 19, 2019, Full Committee held a hearing entitled “H.R. 51: Making D.C. the 51st State”. The committee considered a motion to subpoena an additional witness. The motion was tabled.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2019

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, business meeting to markup an original bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, 9:30 a.m., SD–124.

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, business meeting to markup an original bill making appropriations for the Department of Commerce, the Department of Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, 10 a.m., SD–192.

Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security, business meeting to markup an original bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, 10:30 a.m., SD–138.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Aviation and Space, to hold hearings to examine improving air traffic control for the American people, focusing on examining the current system, 2:30 p.m., SD–562.

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on Near East, South Asia, Central Asia, and Counterterrorism, to hold hearings to examine key findings from the Syria Study Group report, 2:30 p.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: business meeting to consider the nomination of Eugene Scalia, of Virginia, to be Secretary of Labor, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Judiciary: Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights, to hold hearings to examine competition in digital technology markets, focusing on acquisitions of nascent or potential competitors by digital platforms, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Oversight of the Securities and Exchange Commission: Wall Street’s Cop on the Beat”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Diversity and Inclusion, hearing entitled “Examining the Racial and Gender Wealth Gap in America”, 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship; and Subcommittee on Oversight and investigations of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, joint hearing entitled “Oversight of the Trump Administration’s Muslim Ban”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties, hearing entitled “Congressional Authority to Protect Voting Rights After Shelby County v. Holder”, 2 p.m., 2237 Rayburn.


Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife, hearing on H.R. 925, the “NAWCA”; H.R. 1747, the “National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act”; H.R. 2748, the “Safeguarding America’s Future and Environment Act”; H.R. 2854, the “Protect Our Refuges Act of 2019”; H.R. 2918, the “Extinction Prevention Act”; H.R. 2956, to provide for the establishment of the Western Riverside County Wildlife Refuge; H.R. 3399, to amend the Nutria Eradication and Control
Act of 2003 to include California in the program, and for other purposes; H.R. 4340, the “SALAMANDER Act of 2019”; H.R. 4341, the “Critically Endangered Animals Act of 2019”; and H.R. 4348, the “PAW and FIN Conservation Act of 2019”, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy, hearing entitled “Don’t Vape: Examining the Outbreak of Lung Disease and CDC’s Urgent Warning Not to Use E-Cigarettes”, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, Subcommittee on Legislative and Budget Process, hearing entitled “Building Resilient Communities for America’s Future [Original Jurisdiction Hearing]”, 2:45 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 2203, the “Homeland Security Improvement Act” [Further consideration]; and H.R. 3525, the “U.S. Border Patrol Medical Screening Standards Act”, 5 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Research and Technology, hearing entitled “Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Work”, 4 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials, hearing entitled “Challenges and Opportunities for Commuter Railroads”, 4 p.m., 2167 Rayburn.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of September 24 through September 27, 2019

Senate Chamber

On Tuesday, Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Joseph Cella, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Fiji, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of Nauru, the Kingdom of Tonga, and Tuvalu, Department of State, and vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the nominations of Joseph Cella, Daniel Habib Jorjani, of Kentucky, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior, and David Fabian Black, of North Dakota, to be Deputy Commissioner of Social Security, at 11:30 a.m.

At 3:30 p.m., Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Brian McGuire, of New York, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury, and if cloture having been invoked, on confirmation of the nominations of Joseph Cella, Daniel Habib Jorjani, and David Fabian Black.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: September 25, to hold hearings to examine perspectives on the livestock and poultry sectors, 10 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Appropriations: September 24, Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, business meeting to markup an original bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, 9:30 a.m., SD–124.

September 24, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, business meeting to markup an original bill making appropriations for the Department of Commerce, the Department of Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, 10 a.m., SD–192.

September 24, Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security, business meeting to markup an original bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, 10:30 a.m., SD–138.

September 26, Full Committee, business meeting to markup an original bill making appropriations for Interior, Environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, an original bill making appropriations for Commerce, Justice, Science, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, an original bill making appropriations for Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and an original bill making appropriations for Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, 10:30 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Armed Services: September 25, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, to receive a closed briefing on Department of Defense cyber operations, 2:30 p.m., SVC–217.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: September 25, to hold hearings to examine facilitating faster payments in the United States, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: September 24, Subcommittee on Aviation and Space, to hold hearings to examine improving air traffic control for the American people, focusing on examining the current system, 2:30 p.m., SD–562.

September 25, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine fishery failures, focusing on improving the disaster declaration and relief process, 10 a.m., SH–216.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: September 25, business meeting to consider S. 334, to authorize the construction of the Musselshell-Judith Rural Water System and study of the Dry-Redwater Regional Water Authority System in the States of Montana and North Dakota, S. 607, to amend the Department of Energy Organization Act to address insufficient compensation of employees and other personnel of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, S. 860, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to modify the terms of the Jackson Gulch rehabilitation project in Colorado,
S. 990, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the implementation of the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program First Increment Extension for threatened and endangered species in the Central and Lower Platte River Basin, S. 1570, to provide flexibility to allow greater aquifer recharge, S. 1602, to amend the United States Energy Storage Competitiveness Act of 2007 to establish a research, development, and demonstration program for grid-scale energy storage systems, S. 1751, to amend the Reclamation Project Act of 1939 to authorize pumped storage hydropower development utilizing multiple Bureau of Reclamation reservoirs, S. 1758, to extend a repayment contract relating to the Purgatoire River Water Conservancy District and to authorize the District to develop an excess capacity contract to offset repayment costs, S. 1821, to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to provide for research on, and the development and deployment of, marine energy, S. 1882, to make available the continued use of Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program project use power by the Kinsey Irrigation Company and the Sidney Water Users Irrigation District, S. 1931, to require the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration to establish a pilot project to provide increased transparency for customers, S. 2044, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to establish an Aging Infrastructure Account, to amend the Reclamation Safety of Dams Act of 1978 to provide additional funds under that Act, to establish a review of flood control rule curves pilot project within the Bureau of Reclamation, S. 2094 and H.R. 2114, bills to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to provide Federal financial assistance to States to implement, review, and revise State energy security plans, S. 2095, to provide for certain programs and developments in the Department of Energy concerning the cybersecurity and vulnerabilities of, and physical threat to, the electric grid, S. 2137, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, S. 2300, to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to establish a program to incentivize innovation and to enhance the industrial competitiveness of the United States by developing technologies to reduce emissions of nonpower industrial sectors, S. 2332, to provide for the modernization of the electric grid, S. 2333, to provide for enhanced energy grid security, S. 2334, to require the Secretary of Energy to establish the 21st Century Energy Workforce Advisory Board, S. 2335, to accelerate smart building development, and H.R. 1420, to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to promote energy efficiency via information and computing technologies, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: September 25, business meeting to consider S. 2260, to provide for the improvement of domestic infrastructure in order to prevent marine debris, S. 2099, to redesignate the Sullys Hill National Game Preserve in the State of North Dakota as the White Horse Hill National Game Preserve, the nominations of Aurelia Skipwith, of Indiana, to be Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, and Katherine Andrea Lemos, of California, to be a Member of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, and to be Chairperson of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, and 8 General Services Administration resolutions, 9:15 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Foreign Relations: September 24, Subcommittee on Near East, South Asia, Central Asia, and Counterterrorism, to hold hearings to examine key findings from the Syria Study Group report, 2:30 p.m., SD–419.

September 25, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine United States policy in Mexico and Central America, focusing on ensuring effective policies to address the crisis at the border, 10:15 a.m., SD–419.

September 25, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 1590, to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to authorize rewards for thwarting wildlife trafficking linked to transnational organized crime, S. 1678, to express United States support for Taiwan’s diplomatic alliances around the world, S. 1838, to amend the Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992, S. 2372, to enhance global engagement to combat marine debris, S. 2503, to reauthorize the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, S. Res. 183, reaffirming the vital role of the United States-Japan alliance in promoting peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond, S. Res. 236, reaffirming the strong partnership between Tunisia and the United States and supporting the people of Tunisia in their continued pursuit of democratic reforms, S. Res. 277, remembering the 25th Anniversary of the bombing of the Argentine Israelite Mutual Association (AMIA) Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and recommitting to efforts to uphold justice for the 85 victims of the attacks, S. Res. 318, to support the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and the Sixth Replenishment, and other pending calendar business, 1:30 p.m., S–116, Capitol.

September 26, Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy, to hold hearings to examine the Hong Kong emergency, focusing on securing freedom, autonomy, and human rights, 10:45 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: September 24, business meeting to consider the nomination of Eugene Scalia, of Virginia, to be Secretary of Labor, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: September 25, to hold hearings to examine countering domestic terrorism, focusing on the evolving threat, 2:30 p.m., SD–342.

Committee on Judiciary: September 24, Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights, to hold hearings to examine competition in digital technology markets, focusing on acquisitions of nascent or potential competitors by digital platforms, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

September 25, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine pending nominations, 10 a.m., SD–226.

September 26, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 2132, to promote security and provide justice for United States victims of international terrorism, S.
2511, to amend title 40, United States Code, to provide the Marshal of the Supreme Court of the United States and Supreme Court Police with the authority to protect the Chief Justice of the United States, any Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, and other individuals in any location, and the nominations of Halil Suleyman Ozerden, of Mississippi, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, David B. Barlow, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah, John Fitzgerald Kness, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, R. Austin Huffaker, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama, Lee Philip Rudofsky, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Richard Earnest Myers II, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina, Anuraag Singhal, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, and Kenneth Charles Canterbury, Jr., of South Carolina, to be Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, and David M. DeVillers, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, both of the Department of Justice, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: September 25, to hold hearings to examine toxic exposure, focusing on examining the Department of Veterans Affairs’s presumptive disability decision-making process, 10 a.m., SR–418.

Select Committee on Intelligence: September 24, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

September 26, Full Committee, closed business meeting to consider pending intelligence matters; to be immediately followed by a closed hearing to examine certain intelligence matters, 2 p.m., SH–219.

Special Committee on Aging: September 25, to hold hearings to examine promoting healthy aging, focusing on living your best life long into your golden years, 10:15 a.m., SD–562.

House Committees

Committee on Agriculture, September 26, Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry, hearing entitled “The National Forest System: Restoring our Forest Infrastructure”, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, September 25, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled “International Food Assistance Programs at USDA and USAID”, 10 a.m., 2362–A Rayburn.


September 25, Subcommittee on the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled “Investments in Medical Research at Five Institutes and Centers of the National Institutes of Health”, 10 a.m., 2358–C Rayburn.

September 25, Subcommittee on the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled “Oversight Hearing: FAA Aviation Certification”, 2 p.m., 2359 Rayburn.


Committee on Armed Services, September 25, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, hearing entitled “Status of the B61–12 Life Extension and W88 Alteration–570 Programs”, 2 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, September 25, Full Committee, hearing entitled “America’s Infrastructure: Today’s Gaps, Tomorrow’s Opportunities, and the Need for Federal Investment”, 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Education and Labor, September 25, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 2474, the “Protecting the Right to Organize Act of 2019”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

September 26, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, hearing entitled “Misclassification of Employees: Examining the Costs to Workers, Businesses, and the Economy”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.


Committee on Energy and Commerce, September 25, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Sounding the Alarm: The Public Health Threats of E-Cigarettes”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

September 25, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Making Prescription Drugs More Affordable: Legislation to Negotiate a Better Deal for Americans”, 10:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

September 27, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled “Legislating to Secure America’s Wireless Future”, 9:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.


September 25, Subcommittee on Housing, Community Development, and Insurance, hearing entitled “Protecting Seniors: A Review of the FHA’s Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM) Program”, 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

September 26, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Examining Legislation to Protect Consumers and Small Business Owners from Abusive Debt Collection Practices”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.


Committee on Foreign Affairs, September 25, Full Committee, markup on H. Res. 543, recognizing Hong
Kong’s bilateral relationship with the United States, condemning the interference of the People’s Republic of China in Hong Kong’s affairs, and supporting the people of Hong Kong’s right to protest; H.R. 3289, the “Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2019”; H. Res. 517, supporting the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), malaria, and its Sixth Replenishment; H. Res. 387, condemning continued violence against civilians by armed groups in the Central African Republic and supporting efforts to achieve a lasting political solution to the conflict; H. Res. 552, calling on the Government of the Russian Federation to provide evidence of wrongdoing or to release United States citizen Paul Whelan; H.R. 4270, the “PROTECT Hong Kong Act”; and H. Res. 521, commending the Government of Canada for upholding the rule of law and expressing concern over actions by the Government of the People’s Republic of China in response to a request from the United States Government to the Government of Canada for the extradition of a Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd., executive, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

September 25, Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, Civilian Security, and Trade, hearing entitled “Assessing the Impact of Cutting Foreign Assistance to Central America”, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

September 26, Full Committee; and Full Committee of the House Committee on Natural Resources, joint hearing entitled “Sustaining U.S. Pacific Insular Relationships”, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

September 26, Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and Nonproliferation, hearing entitled “U.S. Nonproliferation Policy and the FY 2020 Budget”, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, September 25, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1975, the “Cybersecurity Policy and the FY 2020 Budget”, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.


September 26, Subcommittee on Oversight, Management and Accountability, hearing entitled “Oversight of ICE Detention Facilities: Is DHS Doing Enough?”, 2 p.m., 310 Cannon.

September 26, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, hearing entitled “Community Responses to Gun Violence in our Cities”, 12 p.m., 2237 Rayburn.

Committee on House Administration, September 25, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Oversight of the Federal Election Commission”, 9 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on the Judiciary, September 25, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Protecting America from Assault Weapons”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

September 26, Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship, hearing entitled “The Expansion and Troubling Use of ICE Detention”, 10:30 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.


September 26, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, hearing entitled “Community Responses to Gun Violence in our Cities”, 12 p.m., 2237 Rayburn.

September 27, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Securing America’s Elections”, 9 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, September 25, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 792, the “Tribal Coastal Resiliency Act”; H.R. 925, the ”North American Wetlands Conservation Extension Act”; H.R. 1472, to rename the Homestead National Monument of America near Beatrice, Nebraska, as the Homestead National Historical Park; H.R. 1487, the “Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Boundary Adjustment Study Act”; H.R. 1492, the “Yucca House National Monument Boundary Revision Act”; H.R. 1747, the “National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act”; H.R. 2185, the “District of Columbia Flood Prevention Act of 2019”; H.R. 3115, the “Living Shorelines Act of 2019”; H.R. 3541, the “Coastal State Climate Preparedness Act of 2019”; and H.R. 3596, the “Keep America’s Waterfronts Working Act”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.


September 26, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Department of the Interior’s Failure to Cooperate with Congressional Oversight Requests”, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, September 25, Subcommittee on Government Operations, hearing entitled “NextGen Feds: Recruiting the Next Generation of Public Servants”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

September 26, Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, hearing entitled “The Administration’s Decision to Deport Critically Ill Children and Their Families”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, September 25, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 4573, the “Engineering Biology Research and Development Act of 2019”; H.R. 4372, the “MSI STEM Achievement Act”; and H.R. 4355, the “Identifying Outputs of Generative Adversarial Networks Act”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

September 26, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Understanding, Forecasting, and Communicating Extreme Weather in a Changing Climate”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

September 26, Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, hearing entitled “Online Imposters and Disinformation”, 2 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, September 25, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 4406, the “Small Business Development Centers Improvement Act of 2019”; H.R. 4405, the “Women’s Business Centers Improvements Act of 2019”; H.R. 4407, the “SCORE for Small Business
Act of 2019”; H.R. 4387, to establish Growth Accelerator Fund Competition within the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes, 11:30 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.


September 25, Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, hearing entitled “Coast Guard and Port Infrastructure: Built to Last?”, 2 p.m., 2253 Rayburn.


Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, September 25, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “MISSION Critical: Care in the Community Update”, 10 a.m., HVC–210.

September 26, Subcommittee on Technology Modernization, hearing entitled “The Future of VA Scheduling: Implementing a Commercial Off the Shelf Scheduling Solution at the Department of Veterans Affairs”, 10 a.m., HVC–210.

Committee on Ways and Means, September 26, Subcommittee on Oversight, hearing entitled “The Public Health Consequences and Costs of Gun Violence”, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, September 25, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Witness Interview”, 9:30 a.m., HVC–304. This hearing is closed.

September 26, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Whistleblower Disclosure”, 9 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.


Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, September 26, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Promoting Civility and Building a More Collaborative Congress”, 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
10 a.m., Tuesday, September 24

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Joseph Cella, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Fiji, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of Nauru, the Kingdom of Tonga, and Tuvalu, Department of State, and vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the nominations of Joseph Cella, Daniel Habib Jorjani, of Kentucky, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior, and David Fabian Black, of North Dakota, to be Deputy Commissioner of Social Security, at 11:30 a.m.

At 3:30 p.m., Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Brian McGuire, of New York, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury, and if cloture having been invoked, on confirmation of the nominations of Joseph Cella, Daniel Habib Jorjani, and David Fabian Black.

(Senate will recess following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of David Fabian Black until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
12 noon, Tuesday, September 24

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: To be announced.