

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. RISCHE. Mr. President, I have 7 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

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

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, October 22, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, October 22, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, October 22, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, October 22, 2019, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Joshua A. Deahl, to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, Deborah J. Israel and Andrea L. Hertzfeld, both to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, and Robert Anthony Dixon, to be United States Marshal for the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, Department of Justice.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, October 22, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, October 22, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, OCEANS, FISHERIES, AND WEATHER

The Subcommittee on Science, Oceans, Fisheries, and Weather of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, October 22, 2019, at 2:15 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Bob Ross, a detailee on the Agriculture Subcommittee, Faisal Amin, a detailee on

the Interior Subcommittee, and Olivia Matthews, an intern on my Appropriations Committee, be granted floor privileges for the length of the current debate on H.R. 3055, the Commerce, Justice, Science, Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, Interior, Environment, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act of 2020.

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

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent for my intern, Allie Kirchoff, to have privileges of the floor for the remainder of the day.

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

RESCUING ANIMALS WITH REWARDS ACT OF 2019

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 232, S. 1590.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1590) 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.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. MORAN. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

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

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. MORAN. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 1590) was passed as follows:

S. 1590

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Rescuing Animals With Rewards Act of 2019" or the "RAWR Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Wildlife trafficking is a major transnational crime that is estimated to generate over \$10,000,000,000 a year in illegal profits and which is increasingly perpetrated by organized, sophisticated criminal enterprises, including known terrorist organizations.

(2) Wildlife trafficking not only threatens endangered species worldwide, but also jeopardizes local security, spreads disease, undermines rule of law, fuels corruption, and damages economic development.

(3) Combating wildlife trafficking requires a coordinated and sustained approach at the global, regional, national, and local levels.

(4) Congress stated in the Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt Wildlife Trafficking Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-231) that it is the policy of the United States to take immediate actions to stop the illegal global trade in wildlife and wildlife products and associated transnational organized crime.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Department of State's rewards program is a powerful tool in combating sophisticated international crime and that the Department of State and Federal law enforcement should work in concert to offer rewards that target wildlife traffickers.

SEC. 3. WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING PREVENTION REWARDS PROGRAM.

Subparagraph (B) of section 36(k)(5) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2708(k)(5)) is amended by inserting "wildlife trafficking (as defined by section 2(12) of the Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt Wildlife Trafficking Act of 2016 (16 U.S.C. 7601(12); Public Law 114-231)) and" after "includes".

Mr. MORAN. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 2019 AS "SICKLE CELL DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH"

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 373, 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. 373) expressing support for the designation of September 2019 as "Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month" in order to educate communities across the United States about sickle cell disease and the need for research, early detection methods, effective treatments, and preventative care programs with respect to complications from sickle cell disease and conditions related to sickle cell disease.

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 373) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S.J. RES. 59

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I understand there is a joint resolution at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the title of the joint resolution for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 59) expressing the sense of Congress on the precipitous withdrawal of United States Armed Forces from Syria and Afghanistan, and Turkey's unprovoked incursion into Syria.

Mr. MORAN. I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the joint resolution on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the joint resolution will be read for a second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2019

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, October 23; 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 resume consideration of S.J. Res. 50. I further ask the debate time on the joint resolution expire at 2:45 p.m. tomorrow and the Senate vote on passage of S.J. Res. 50; finally, that following the disposition of S.J. Res. 50, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 3055.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MORAN. 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, following the remarks of Senators MERKLEY and BENNET.

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

TRIBUTE TO KAITLIN GAFFNEY

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I come to the floor today to recognize Kaitlin Gaffney, a longtime member of my Senate team who, after nearly 11 years, is leaving to start a new chapter in her life.

Kaitlin has been a key part of Team Merkley since our earliest days. In fact, she was part of the original team that built our office and our constituent services operation from scratch. I don't know how many folks here have been part of opening a Senate office, but it is not easy. It is daunting. You walk into a completely empty office. There are no computers, no phones, not even the basics in terms of pens and paper, and you know you have responsibilities, and you need to start fulfilling them.

In the early days, we didn't have a computer system to track our constituents' thoughts or opinions, so Kaitlin and the team wrote everything down on paper before moving to spreadsheets. There was no training on how to serve constituents, but from day one, that is exactly what we were determined to do and she was determined to do.

So you have to hit the ground running, learning as you go, and Kaitlin did hit the ground running like an Olympic Gold Medalist. She built our constituent services operation from the ground up, and I am proud to say that today, 11 years later, it is an operation that is second to none and one that Oregonians across our State know they can rely on for help.

It is Oregonians who know that if they are in a bind, the team they can call on is my constituent services team, and often that is Kaitlin, specifically. In the beginning days, we were in the middle of the mortgage crisis, and that crisis was forcing Oregon families out of their homes—where they couldn't afford the balloon payments or the doubling of the interest rate at the expiration of the teaser rate. They couldn't pay the high rate on the triple option loan. They were desperate, and they called Kaitlin. Kaitlin was the point person on our team fighting to keep roofs over their heads. She is the one who day after day had to consult with them in that very stressful situation where often a mortgage company was simultaneously telling a family they will be evicted for nonpayment and simultaneously saying we have this program in which you can sign up and don't worry. She is the one who brought together advocacy organizations, housing authorities, and local elected leaders to help assist a massive caseload of struggling Oregonians. Her direct involvement meant that a very large number of them were able to solve the challenge and stay in their homes.

Even today, as I go around the State, I hold a townhall in every county every year, and people will come up to me at those county gatherings and say: By the way, I just wanted to tell you that a decade ago a person on your team, Kaitlin, helped me out and I still have my home today and it is en route to being paid off. That meant so much to families.

There were all kinds of different challenges that came up over the years that she was able to assist with. There was a time when she helped rescue an Oregon constituent who was stranded on an island in the Pacific. One day, she got a call from a woman who was worried about her son who was on a trip to Thailand and had gone missing. His friend said he had told them he was going to swim across the ocean to a specific island, and they hadn't heard from him. There were strong currents between the mainland and that island, and the efforts to find him on that island had turned up nothing. There

wasn't really any organized effort to look for him. So Kaitlin did what she does so well. She picked up the phone, and she started making calls. Eventually, she was able to convince an office in Thailand to send out a search and rescue helicopter to go looking for this lost Oregonian. Because she did, he was eventually found, and he was rescued. Thus, the currents of the world changed with him still with us when it might have turned out quite disastrously.

That is the type of team member she is—always determined to go to any length necessary. That includes a situation when the life of a sick baby was in danger because this baby was being barred from the United States to receive a lifesaving medical procedure. Baby Fatemah was being barred because of a policy that had been adopted to block Muslims from coming into the United States.

It was early 2017, and this baby needed an immediate procedure to save her life. It was considered by the experts that there was a very small chance of her surviving with this procedure in Iran. The Oregon Health Science University in Oregon said they really understood this procedure, had very high odds of it going well, and that was her best shot.

So we had to work to lobby the administration, and, boy, I tell you, Kaitlin was right at the heart of that, working to coordinate all the phone calls. In the end, Baby Fatemah was granted a waiver, she did come to Oregon, and her life was saved.

In case after case, Kaitlin succeeded because she cared about the individuals involved, and she worked every avenue to assist them. She certainly embodied the spirit of my complete constituent services team.

I can't thank her enough for her dedication, the intensity of her efforts, and her incredible contributions to solving challenges for Oregonians. She leaves extremely large shoes to fill, and we will dearly miss her. After almost 11 years, she is on to another chapter, and I know she is just going to be as much of a phenomenal success in that chapter as she has been on my team, and we wish her well.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

TAX LEGISLATION

Mr. BENNET. Madam President, Republican tax legislation in 2017 was completely misguided. Despite our best efforts, the bill passed in the middle of the night. It was completely partisan, not a single hearing. There wasn't a single Democratic amendment, and this is what that bill looked like.

As I repeatedly pointed out, the Republican taxpayers gave 572,000 taxpayers, with incomes over \$1 million, more in tax cuts than the 90 million Americans who had incomes below \$50,000 a year, making income inequality worse in this country.