DECEMBER 11, 2019

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 11, 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 Wednesday, December 11, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 11, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 11, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 11, 2019, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing on the nomination of Michael D. Weahkee, of New Mexico, to be Director of the Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Geoffrey Clint, a Navy fellow in Senator Cruz’s office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the Congress.

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Kelly McManus, a military fellow in my office, be granted floor privileges through the end of Congress.

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

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Leighton Grant, who is the military fellow in our office and has been this last year, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the Congress.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McCONNELL. 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 CARPER and WHITEHOUSE.

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

Mr. President, the Senate from Delaware.

DELAWARE DAY AND HEALTHCARE ENROLLMENT

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise this evening with a very important reminder for many Delawareans and for all Americans, but before I do that, I want to say that today is December 11, and 4 days ago was December 7. A lot of people think of December 7 as Pearl Harbor Day, and for many years of my life, I did as well. It is also Delaware Day. Senator CHUS COONS, LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER, and I are hosting a reception on Capitol Hill today, and we call it “A Taste of Delaware.” We are inviting folks to come and join us if they would like.

The reason I mention Delaware Day is because that was actually the day Delaware became the first State to ratify the Constitution. For 1 whole week, we were the entire United States. We kind of opened things up and let the rest of the other 49 States in, and I think it has worked out pretty well most days since then.

If you look at the preamble of the Constitution, it starts off with these words: “We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union.” That is what it says. It doesn’t say “to form a perfect Union;” it says “to form a more perfect Union.” It goes on to talk about the public welfare and how we should be looking out for the good of all our citizens.

The Constitution was ratified in a place called the Golden Fleece Tavern in Dover, DE, on December 7, 1787, after 3 days of deliberation by about 25 or so Delawareans.

I mention Delaware Day because that goes back to the founding of our country, the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution itself particularly, the preamble of the Constitution, which makes clear that we ought to be looking out for the welfare of our people.

I stand before us today reminding us that if we don’t have good health and if we don’t have access to healthcare, it is pretty hard to be happy, at least for a lifetime.

I say that as sort of a preface to what I want to say now, which is that not everybody who is eligible for healthcare who needs healthcare is covered. We have a lot of people who get their healthcare from employer-provided plans. We have 300 million people in all who get healthcare coverage in this country—half of them from employer-provided plans, about 25 percent from Medicaid, about 15 percent from Medicare—and there is about another 10 percent in some cases don’t have any coverage. About 20 million people have no coverage.

A lot of people now get their coverage from exchanges. Every State has