Wednesday, February 5, 2020

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS
Senate sitting as a Court of Impeachment adjudged President Trump not guilty as charged in Impeachment Articles I and II.

Senate

Chamber Action
Routine Proceedings, pages S871–S945

Measures Introduced: Five bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3254–3258, and S. Res. 491–493.

Measures Passed:

Authorizing Testimony, Documents, and Representation: Senate agreed to S. Res. 493, to authorize testimony, documents, and representation in United States v. Stahlnecker.

Measures Considered:

Impeachment of President Trump: Senate, sitting as a Court of Impeachment, resumed consideration of the articles of impeachment against Donald John Trump, President of the United States, taking the following actions:

Article I, that in his conduct of the office of President of the United States—and in violation of his constitutional oath faithfully to execute the office of President of the United States and, to the best of his ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, and in violation of his constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed—Donald J. Trump has abused the powers of the Presidency. (Vote No. 33) 48 guilty, 52 not guilty, two-thirds of the Senators present not having pronounced him guilty, the Senate adjudges that Donald John Trump, President of the United States, is not guilty as charged in this article.

Article II, that in his conduct of the office of President of the United States—and in violation of his constitutional oath faithfully to execute the office of President of the United States and, to the best of his ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, and in violation of his constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed—Donald J. Trump has directed the unprecedented, categorical, and indiscriminate defiance of subpoenas issued by the House of Representatives pursuant to its “sole Power of Impeachment”. President Trump has abused the powers of the Presidency in a manner offensive to, and subversive of, the Constitution. (Vote No. 34) 47 guilty, 53 not guilty, two-thirds of the Senators present not having pronounced him guilty, the Senate adjudges that Donald John Trump, President of the United States, is not guilty as charged in this article.

The Senate, having tried Donald John Trump, President of the United States, upon two articles of impeachment exhibited against him by the House of Representatives, and two-thirds of the Senators present not having found him guilty of the charges contained therein: it is, therefore, ordered and adjudged that the said Donald John Trump be, and he is hereby, acquitted of the charges in said articles.

Ordered, that the Secretary of the Senate be directed to communicate to the Secretary of State, as provided by Rule XXIII of the Rules of Procedure and Practice in the Senate. When Sitting on Impeachment Trials, and also to the House of Representatives, the judgment of the Senate in the case of Donald John Trump, and transmit a certified copy of the judgment to each.

The Court of Impeachment adjourned sine die at 4:42 p.m.

Brasher Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Andrew Lynn Brasher, of Alabama, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Wednesday, February 5, 2020, a vote
on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, February 10, 2020.

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 3:00 p.m., on Monday, February 10, 2020, Senate resume consideration of the nomination; and that notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXII, the cloture motions filed on Wednesday, February 5, 2020 ripen at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, February 10, 2020.

Kindred Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Joshua M. Kindred, of Alaska, to be United States District Judge for the District of Alaska.

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Andrew Lynn Brasher, of Alabama, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Schelp Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Matthew Thomas Schelp, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Joshua M. Kindred, of Alaska, to be United States District Judge for the District of Alaska.

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Kness Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of John Fitzgerald Kness, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Philip M. Halpern, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Halpern Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Philip M. Halpern, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of John Fitzgerald Kness, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Executive Communications:

Additional Cosponsors:

Additional Statements:

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—34)

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 5:15 p.m., until 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 6, 2020. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S945.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

ATHLETE SAFETY

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine athlete safety and the integrity of U.S. Sport, after receiving testimony from Ju'Riese Colon, U.S. Center for SafeSport, Denver, Colorado; Tory Lindley, Northwestern University, Carrollton, Texas, on behalf of the National Athletic Trainers’ Association; and Travis T. Tygart, United States Anti-Doping Agency, Colorado Springs, Colorado.
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE OVERSIGHT
Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Fish and Wildlife Service, after receiving testimony from Robert Wallace, Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior.

NOMINATIONS
Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Kipp Kranbuhl, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Sarah C. Arbes, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services, who was introduced by Senator Alexander, and Jason J. Fichtner, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Social Security Advisory Board, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

VA MISSION ACT
Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the VA MISSION Act, focusing on the implementation of the Community Care Network, after receiving testimony from Richard A. Stone, Executive in Charge, Kameron Matthews, Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Community Care, and Jennifer MacDonald, VA MISSION Act Lead, all of the Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; Adrian Atizado, Disabled American Veterans Deputy National Legislative Director, Washington, D.C.; Lieutenant General Patricia D. Horoho, USA (Ret.), OptumServe, Falls Church, Virginia; and David J. McIntyre, Jr., TriWest Healthcare Alliance, Phoenix, Arizona.

INTELLIGENCE
Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action
Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 12 public bills, H.R. 5756–5767; and 2 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 87; and H. Res. 832, were introduced.

Additional Cosponsors:

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 3941, to enhance the innovation, security, and availability of cloud computing services used in the Federal Government by establishing the Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program within the General Services Administration and by establishing a risk management, authorization, and continuous monitoring process to enable the Federal Government to leverage cloud computing services using a risk-based approach consistent with the Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 and cloud-based operations, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–391); and

H. Res. 833, providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 826) expressing disapproval of the Trump administration’s harmful actions towards Medicaid; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2474) to amend the National Labor Relations Act, the Labor Management Relations Act, 1947, and the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5687) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–392).

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Cuellar to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Recess: The House recessed at 11 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon.

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Rabbi Seth Frisch, New Shul of America, Rydal, Pennsylvania.

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers for Veterans Therapy Act: H.R. 4305, amended, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on dog training therapy; Pages H773–74

Protect and Restore America’s Estuaries Act: H.R. 4044, amended, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the National Estuary Program, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 355 yeas to 62 nays, Roll No. 35; Pages H780–85, H833

San Francisco Bay Restoration Act: H.R. 1132, amended, to amend the Federal Water Pollution
Control Act to establish a grant program to support the restoration of San Francisco Bay; Pages H785–88

Promoting United Government Efforts to Save Our Sound Act: H.R. 2247, amended, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide assistance for programs and activities to protect the water quality of Puget Sound; Pages H788–96

Chesapeake Bay Program Reauthorization Act: H.R. 1620, amended, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Program; Pages H796–99

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2019: H.R. 4031, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, by a 2⁄3 yea-and-nay vote of 373 yeas to 45 nays, Roll No. 36; Pages H799–H805, H833–34

Amending the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program: H.R. 4275, amended, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program; Pages H805–06

Representative Payee Fraud Prevention Act: H.R. 5214, to amend title 5, United States Code, to prevent fraud by representative payees; Pages H806–08

Taxpayers Right-To-Know Act: H.R. 3830, amended, to provide taxpayers with an improved understanding of Government programs through the disclosure of cost, performance, and areas of duplication among them, leverage existing data to achieve a functional Federal program inventory; Pages H808–11

USPS Fairness Act: H.R. 2382, to amend title 5, United States Code, to repeal the requirement that the United States Postal Service prepay future retirement benefits, by a 2⁄3 yea-and-nay vote of 309 yeas to 106 nays, Roll No. 37; Pages H811–15, H834–35


Payment Integrity Information Act: S. 375, to improve efforts to identify and reduce Government-wide improper payments; Pages H819–25

Presidential Transition Enhancement Act: S. 394, to amend the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 to improve the orderly transfer of the executive power during Presidential transitions; Pages H825–27

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12711 East Jefferson Avenue in Detroit, Michigan, as the “Aretha Franklin Post Office Building”: H.R. 3976, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12711 East Jefferson Avenue in Detroit, Michigan, as the “Aretha Franklin Post Office Building”; Pages H828–29

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8320 13th Avenue in Brooklyn, New York, as the “Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini Post Office Building”: H.R. 4794, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8320 13th Avenue in Brooklyn, New York, as the “Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini Post Office Building”; Pages H828–29

Amending the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Great Lakes Restoration Program: H.R. 4981, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2505 Derita Avenue in Charlotte, North Carolina, as the “Julius L. Chambers Civil Rights Memorial Post Office”; Pages H829–30

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3703 North Main Street in Farmville, North Carolina, as the “Walter B. Jones, Jr. Post Office”: H.R. 5037, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3703 North Main Street in Farmville, North Carolina, as the “Walter B. Jones, Jr. Post Office”; Pages H830–31

Permitting the Scipio A. Jones Post Office in Little Rock, Arkansas, to accept and display a portrait of Scipio A. Jones: H.R. 3317, to permit the Scipio A. Jones Post Office in Little Rock, Arkansas, to accept and display a portrait of Scipio A. Jones; and Pages H831–32

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 445 Main Street in Laceyville, Pennsylvania, as the “Melinda Gene Piccotti Post Office Building”: H.R. 4279, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 445 Main Street in Laceyville, Pennsylvania, as the “Melinda Gene Piccotti Post Office”. Pages H832–33

Making a technical correction to the SFC Sean Cooley and SPC Christopher Horton Congressional Gold Star Family Fellowship Program Act: The House agreed to discharge from committee
and agree to H. Res. 812, making a technical correction to the SFC Sean Cooley and SPC Christopher Horton Congressional Gold Star Family Fellowship Program Act.

Providing for the reappointment of John Fahey as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution: The House agreed to discharge from committee and pass S.J. Res. 65, providing for the reappointment of John Fahey as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

Providing for the reappointment of Risa Lavizzo-Mourey as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution: The House agreed to discharge from committee and pass S.J. Res. 67, providing for the reappointment of Risa Lavizzo-Mourey as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

Privileged Resolution—Intent to Offer: Representative Granger announced her intent to offer a privileged resolution.

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on pages H835–36.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H833, H834, and H834–35. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Committee Meetings

SUPERCHARGING THE INNOVATION BASE
Committee on Armed Services: Future of Defense Task Force held a hearing entitled “Supercharging the Innovation Base”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EXCEPTIONAL FAMILY MEMBER PROGRAM—ARE THE MILITARY SERVICES REALLY TAKING CARE OF FAMILY MEMBERS?
Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Military Personnel held a hearing entitled “Exceptional Family Member Program—Are the Military Services Really Taking Care of Family Members?”. Testimony was heard from Carolyn Stevens, Director, Office of Military Family Readiness Policy, Department of Defense; Captain Edward Simmer, U.S. Navy, Chief Clinical Officer, TRICARE Health Plans, Defense Health Agency, Department of Defense; Colonel Steve Lewis, U.S. Army, Deputy Director, DA Quality of Life Task Force and DA Family Advocacy Program Manager, U.S. Army; Ed Cannon, Director, Fleet and Family Readiness, Commander, U.S. Navy Installations Command; Norma Inabinet, Deputy Director, Military Personnel Programs, U.S. Air Force Personnel Center; Jennifer Stewart, Manager, Exceptional Family Member Program, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps; Jackie Nowicki, Director, K–12 Education, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

UPDATE ON NAVY AND MARINE CORPS READINESS IN THE PACIFIC IN THE AFTERMATH OF RECENT MISHAPS
Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces; and Subcommittee on Readiness held a joint hearing entitled “Update on Navy and Marine Corps Readiness in the Pacific in the Aftermath of Recent Mishaps”. Testimony was heard from Vice Admiral Richard A. Brown, Commander, Naval Surface Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet; and Lieutenant General Steven R. Rudder, U.S. Marine Corps, Deputy Commandant for Aviation, U.S. Marine Headquarters.

OVERSIGHT HEARING ON DOE’S ROLE IN ADVANCING BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES
Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “Oversight Hearing on DOE’s Role in Advancing Biomedical Sciences”. Testimony was heard from Narayanan Kasthuri, Neuroscientist, Argonne National Laboratory, Department of Energy; and public witnesses.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY RECYCLING PROGRAMS: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES
Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “Strengthening Community Recycling Programs: Challenges and Opportunities”. Testimony was heard from Peter Wright, Assistant Administrator, Office of Land and Emergency Management, Environmental Protection Agency; and public witnesses.

THE FUTURE OF WORK: PROTECTING WORKERS’ CIVIL RIGHTS IN THE DIGITAL AGE
Committee on Education and Labor: Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services held a hearing entitled “The Future of Work: Protecting Workers’ Civil Rights in the Digital Age”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.
MODERNIZING THE NATURAL GAS ACT TO ENSURE IT WORKS FOR EVERYONE
Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy held a hearing entitled “Modernizing the Natural Gas Act to Ensure it Works for Everyone”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

VAPING IN AMERICA: E-CIGARETTE MANUFACTURERS’ IMPACT ON PUBLIC HEALTH
Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Vaping in America: E-Cigarette Manufacturers’ Impact on Public Health”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

RENT-A-BANK SCHEMES AND NEW DEBT TRAPS: ASSESSING EFFORTS TO EVADE STATE CONSUMER PROTECTIONS AND INTEREST RATE CAPS
Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Rent-A-Bank Schemes and New Debt Traps: Assessing Efforts to Evade State Consumer Protections and Interest Rate Caps”. Testimony was heard from Monique Limon, Chair, Banking and Finance Committee, State Assembly, California; and public witnesses.

A FUTURE WITHOUT PUBLIC HOUSING? EXAMINING THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION’S EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE PUBLIC HOUSING
Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Housing, Community Development, and Insurance held a hearing entitled “A Future Without Public Housing? Examining the Trump Administration’s Efforts to Eliminate Public Housing”. Testimony was heard from Ann Gass, Director of Strategic Housing Initiatives, Housing Authority of the City of Austin, Texas; Bobby Collins, Executive Director, Housing Authority of the City of Shreveport, Louisiana; Eugene Jones, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer, Atlanta Housing Authority, Georgia; and public witnesses.

UNIQUE CHALLENGES WOMEN FACE IN GLOBAL HEALTH
Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Unique Challenges Women Face in Global Health”. Testimony was heard from Chairman Lowey and Representative Rodgers of Washington; and public witnesses.

THE WUHAN CORONAVIRUS: ASSESSING THE OUTBREAK, THE RESPONSE, AND REGIONAL IMPLICATIONS
Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and Nonproliferation held a hearing entitled “The Wuhan Coronavirus: Assessing the Outbreak, the Response, and Regional Implications”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE NORTHERN NORTHERN BORDER: HOMELAND SECURITY PRIORITIES IN THE ARCTIC, PART II
Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Transportation and Maritime Security held a hearing entitled “The Northern Northern Border: Homeland Security Priorities in the Arctic, Part II”. Testimony was heard from Admiral Charles Ray, Vice Commander, U.S. Coast Guard; Michael Murphy, Deputy Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs, Department of State; and Marie Mak, Director for Contracting and National Security Acquisitions, Government Accountability Office.

OVERSIGHT OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION: OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH BY HONORING LATINO AMERICANS AND ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS
Committee on House Administration: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Oversight of the Smithsonian Institution: Opportunities for Growth by Honoring Latino Americans and Asian Pacific Americans”. Testimony was heard from Representatives Serrano, Meng, and Hurd; Lonnie G. Bunch III, Secretary, Smithsonian Institution; Lisa Sasaki, Director, Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center, Smithsonian Institution; Eric Petersen, Specialist in American National Government, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Oversight of the Federal Bureau of Investigation”. Testimony was heard from Christopher A. Wray, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURE
Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing on H.R. 5598, the “Boundary Waters Wilderness Protection and Pollution Prevention Act”. Testimony was heard from Representative McCollum; Chris French, Deputy Chief, National Forest System, Department of Agriculture; Leah Baker, Associate State Director,
Bureau of Land Management Eastern States, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States held a hearing on H.R. 4059, to take certain lands in California into trust for the benefit of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, and for other purposes; H.R. 4495, to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Indian Health Service, to acquire private land to facilitate access to the Desert Sage Youth Wellness Center in Hemet, California, and for other purposes; H.R. 4888, to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act, and for other purposes; and H.R. 5153, the “Indian Buffalo Management Act”. Testimony was heard from Darryl LaCounte, Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior; Randy Grinnell, Deputy Director for Management Operations, Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services; and public witnesses.

A THREAT TO AMERICA’S CHILDREN? THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION’S PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE POVERTY LINE CALCULATION

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Subcommittee on Government Operations held a hearing entitled “A Threat to America’s Children? The Trump Administration’s Proposed Changes to the Poverty Line Calculation”. Testimony was heard from Representatives Ocasio-Cortez and Miller; and public witnesses.

A THREAT TO AMERICA’S CHILDREN: THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION’S PROPOSAL TO GUT FAIR HOUSING ACCOUNTABILITY

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties held a hearing entitled “A Threat to America’s Children: The Trump Administration’s Proposal to Gut Fair Housing Accountability”. Testimony was heard from Ellen Lee, Director of Community and Economic Development, New Orleans, Louisiana; and public witnesses.

PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE ACT OF 2019; EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR DISASTER RELIEF AND PUERTO RICO DISASTER TAX RELIEF ACT, 2020; EXPRESSING DISAPPROVAL OF THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION’S HARMFUL ACTIONS TOWARDS MEDICAID

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 2474, the “Protecting the Right to Organize Act of 2019”; H.R. 5687, the “Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief and Puerto Rico Disaster Tax Relief Act, 2020”; and H. Res. 826, expressing disapproval of the Trump administration’s harmful actions towards Medicaid. The Committee granted, by record vote of 9–4, a rule providing for consideration of H. Res. 826, the “Protecting the Right to Organize Act of 2019”, H.R. 2474, the “Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief and Puerto Rico Disaster Tax Relief Act, 2020”, and H.R. 5687, Expressing disapproval of the Trump administration’s harmful actions towards Medicaid. The rule provides for consideration of H. Res. 826, Expressing disapproval of the Trump administration’s harmful actions towards Medicaid, under a closed rule. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the resolution. The rule provides that the resolution shall be considered as read. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 2474, the “Protecting the Right to Organize Act of 2019”, under a structured rule. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Labor. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Labor now printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in part A of the Rules Committee report, shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in part B of the Rules Committee report accompanying the resolution. Each amendment made in order may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in Part B of the report. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 5687, the “Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief and Puerto Rico Disaster Tax Relief Act, 2020”, under a structured rule. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the bill shall
be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill and provides that clause 2(e) of Rule XXI shall not apply during consideration of the bill. The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in Part C of the Rules Committee report. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against the amendments printed in Part C of the report are waived. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Testimony was heard from Chairman Pallone, Chairman Lowey, Chairman Scott of Virginia, and Representatives Walden, Rodgers of Washington, Granger, Suozzi, Rice of South Carolina, Graves of Louisiana, and Foxx.

MANAGEMENT AND SPENDING CHALLENGES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY’S OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight; and Subcommittee on Energy held a joint hearing entitled “Management and Spending Challenges within the Department of Energy’s Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy”. Testimony was heard from Daniel Simmons, Assistant Secretary, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy; and public witnesses.

AMERICA’S SEED FUND: A REVIEW OF SBIR AND STTR
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Research and Technology held a hearing entitled “America’s Seed Fund: A Review of SBIR and STTR”. Testimony was heard from Dawn Tilbury, Assistant Director, Directorate of Engineering, National Science Foundation; and public witnesses.

SBA MANAGEMENT REVIEW: OFFICE OF CREDIT RISK MANAGEMENT
Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “SBA Management Review: Office of Credit Risk Management”. Testimony was heard from Susan E. Streich, Director, Office of Credit Risk Management, U.S. Small Business Administration.

TRACKING TOWARD ZERO: IMPROVING GRADE CROSSING SAFETY AND ADDRESSING COMMUNITY CONCERNS
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials held a hearing entitled “Tracking Toward Zero: Improving Grade Crossing Safety and Addressing Community Concerns”. Testimony was heard from Karl Alexy, Associate Administrator for Railroad Safety and Chief Safety Officer, Federal Railroad Administration; Brian Vercruysse, Rail Safety Program Administrator, Illinois Commerce Commission; Matthew O’Shea, Alderman, 19th Ward of Chicago, Chicago City Council, Illinois; and public witnesses.

EXAMINING HOW THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SUPPORTS SURVIVORS OF MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA
Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations; and Women Veterans Task Force held a joint hearing entitled “Examining How the Department of Veterans Affairs Supports Survivors of Military Sexual Trauma”. Testimony was heard from Willie Clark, Deputy Under Secretary for Field Operations, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; Julie Kroviak, Deputy Assistance Inspector General for Healthcare Inspections, Office of Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

MORE CURES FOR MORE PATIENTS: OVERCOMING PHARMACEUTICAL BARRIERS
Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled “More Cures for More Patients: Overcoming Pharmaceutical Barriers”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

CREATING A CLIMATE RESILIENT AMERICA: OVERCOMING THE HEALTH RISKS OF THE CLIMATE CRISIS
Committee on the Climate Crisis: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Creating a Climate Resilient America: Overcoming the Health Risks of the Climate Crisis”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

ARTICLE ONE: FOSTERING A MORE DELIBERATIVE PROCESS IN CONGRESS
Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Article One: Fostering a More Deliberative Process in Congress”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.
Joint Meetings

PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Commission concluded a hearing to examine the power and purpose of parliamentary diplomacy, focusing on inter-parliamentary initiatives and the United States contribution, after receiving testimony from George Tsereteli, Georgian Member of Parliament and President of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly, Tbilisi, Georgia; and Attila Mesterhazy, Hungarian Member of Parliament and Acting President of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Parliamentary Assembly, Budapest, Hungary.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2020

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled “Non Tribal Public Witness Day”, 9 a.m., 2008 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Defense, hearing entitled “U.S. Strategic Command”, 11 a.m., H–140 Capitol. This hearing is closed.

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled “Non Tribal Public Witness Day”, 1 p.m., 2008 Rayburn.


Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change, hearing entitled “Clearing the Air: Legislation to Promote Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Protecting Consumers or Allowing Consumer Abuse? A Semi-Annual Review of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Fake It Till They Make It: How Bad Actors Use Astroturfing to Manipulate Regulators, Disenfranchise Consumers and Subvert the Rulemaking Process”, 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.


Committee on Oversight and Reform, Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy, hearing entitled “A Threat to America’s Children: The Trump Administration’s Proposed Changes to Broad Based Categorical Eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program”, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Environment, hearing entitled “A Threat to America’s Children: The Trump Administration’s Proposal to Undermine Protections from Mercury Air Toxics Standards”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Rural Development, Agriculture, Trade, and Entrepreneurship, hearing entitled “Taking Care of Business: How Childcare is Important for Regional Economies”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, hearing entitled “Assessing the Transportation Needs of Tribes, Federal Land Management Agencies, and U.S. Territories”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, hearing on H.R. 5052, the “WAVES Act”; legislation on the Class Evaluation Act; legislation on the Edith Norris Rogers Improvement; legislation on the For Profit Conversions; legislation on the GI Bill Comparison Tool Data MOU; legislation on the Home Loan Disaster Legislation; legislation on the Increase in Frequency of Benefits under Automobile Assistance Programs; legislation on the VET–TEC Guard/Reserve Fix; legislation on the VET–TEC Terminal Leave Fix; legislation on the Authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to Provide or Assist in Providing Second Vehicles Adapted for Operation by Disabled legislation on the Electronic Certificates of Eligibility; legislation on the Liability for Transferred Education Benefits; legislation on the STEM Eligibility; and legislation on the VET–TEC Improvement Act, 10 a.m., HVC–210.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Trade, hearing entitled “Trade Infrastructure for Global Competitiveness”, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
11:30 a.m., Thursday, February 6

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
10 a.m., Thursday, February 6

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Consideration of H.R. 2474—Protecting the Right to Organize Act (Subject to a Rule). Consideration of H.R. 5687—Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief and Puerto Rico Disaster Tax Relief Act, 2020 (Subject to a Rule).

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