

Truth telling to the American people means recognizing the extraordinary, unprecedented, historic magnitude of the challenge before us. The scope and scale of potential suffering can be reduced. We owe it to the American people to act. There is no excuse for delay. The failure to act is unconscionable and inconceivable, given the magnitude of the challenge but also given the resolute and resilient spirit that I have seen across Connecticut. Whether it is with Americans donating to people who need it—supplies and other kinds of necessities—or the spirit of giving that I have seen among faith leaders and public officials, the courage of police and firefighters and emergency responders, and the dedication of healthcare providers, whether it is in hospitals or clinics like Charter Oak in Hartford and across Connecticut, everywhere that I have visited, I have seen that American spirit coming forward—the great, positive spirit of America and the ingenuity. That was the word that one of the small business people this morning used to myself and David Griggs at the MetroHartford Alliance. The ingenuity of meeting this challenge, whether it is in research for new vaccines or devising new ways to deliver the tests or providing for more ventilators and intensive care units—that ingenuity is truly American. The dedication of those healthcare givers, first responders, small business people, local officials, and others around the State and around the country ought to inspire us to do better and to take this vote and do our job.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE ISSUANCE OF A PROCLAMATION DECLARING A NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE OUTBREAK OF CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) THAT INVOKES SECTION 1135 OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT, TO ALLOW THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO EXERCISE AUTHORITY UNDER THAT SECTION TO TEMPORARILY WAIVE OR MODIFY CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS OF THE MEDICARE, MEDICAID, AND STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAMS AND OF THE HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT PRIVACY RULE THROUGHOUT THE DURATION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY, RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE ON MARCH 13, 2020—PM 53

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 201 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1621), I hereby report that I have exercised my authority to declare that the outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in the United States constitutes a national emergency. This declaration invokes section 1135 of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1320b-5, to allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services to exercise the authority under that section to temporarily waive or modify certain requirements of the Medicare, Medicaid, and State Children's Health Insurance programs and of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act Privacy Rule throughout the duration of the public health emergency declared in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

I am enclosing a copy of the proclamation I have issued.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 13, 2020.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 3:04 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 760. An act to enable registered apprenticeship programs to better serve veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 893. An act to require the President to develop a strategy to ensure the security of next generation mobile telecommunications

systems and infrastructure in the United States and to assist allies and strategic partners in maximizing the security of next generation mobile telecommunications systems, infrastructure, and software, and for other purposes.

S. 1678. An act to express United States support for Taiwan's diplomatic alliances around the world.

H.R. 1365. An act to make technical corrections to the Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act.

H.R. 4334. An act to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2020 through 2024, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4803. An act to facilitate the automatic acquisition of citizenship for lawful permanent resident children of military and Federal Government personnel residing abroad, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

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

H.R. 6160. An act to extend the chemical facility anti-terrorism standards program of the Department of Homeland Security.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2761, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the British-American Interparliamentary Group: Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. DELBENE of Washington, Mr. KILMER of Washington, Mr. GOMEZ of California, and Mr. CROW of Colorado.

The message further announced that pursuant to Executive Order No. 12131, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the President's Export Council: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. DELBENE of Washington, and Mr. GOMEZ of California.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276d, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group: Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. DEFAZIO of Oregon, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. DELBENE of Washington, and Mr. MORELLE of New York.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, March 16, 2020, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 760. An act to enable registered apprenticeship programs to better serve veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 893. An act to require the President to develop a strategy to ensure the security of next generation mobile telecommunications systems and infrastructure in the United States and to assist allies and strategic partners in maximizing the security of next generation mobile telecommunications systems,

infrastructure, and software, and for other purposes.

S. 1678. An act to express United States support for Taiwan's diplomatic alliances around the world.

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. McCONNELL:

S. 3501. A bill to provide a 77-day extension of certain authorities for foreign intelligence and international terrorism investigations, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

By Mr. CRAMER (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. MORAN):

S. 3502. A bill to delay the implementation date of the current expected credit losses methodology for estimating allowances for credit losses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. LOEFFLER, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. WARREN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BENNET, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DAINES, Ms. MCSALLY, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 3503. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to treat certain programs of education converted to distance learning by reason of emergencies and health-related situations in the same manner as programs of education pursued at educational institutions, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. Res. 544. A resolution supporting the designation of March 2020 as "National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 3129

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3129, a bill to provide for certain reforms with respect to the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION

By Mr. McCONNELL:

S. 3501. A bill to provide a 77-day extension of certain authorities for foreign intelligence and international terrorism investigations, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3501

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

SECTION 1. SEVENTY-SEVEN-DAY EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO ACCESS CERTAIN BUSINESS RECORDS FOR FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE AND INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM INVESTIGATIONS AND FOR ROVING SURVEILLANCE.

Section 102(b)(1) of the USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-177; 50 U.S.C. 1805 note) is amended by striking "March 15, 2020" and inserting "May 30, 2020".

SEC. 2. SEVENTY-SEVEN-DAY EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR INDIVIDUAL TERRORISTS TO BE TREATED AS AGENTS OF FOREIGN POWERS UNDER THE FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE ACT OF 1978.

Section 6001(b)(1) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-458; 50 U.S.C. 1801 note) is amended by striking "March 15, 2020" and inserting "May 30, 2020".

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act and the amendments made by this Act take effect on March 14, 2020.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. LOEFFLER, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. WARREN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BENNET, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DAINES, Ms. MCSALLY, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 3503. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to treat certain programs of education converted to distance learning by reason of emergencies and health-related situations in the same manner as programs of education pursued at educational institutions, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

S. 3503

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

SECTION 1. CONTINUATION OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN PROGRAMS OF EDUCATION CONVERTED TO DISTANCE LEARNING BY REASON OF EMERGENCIES AND HEALTH-RELATED SITUATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a program of education approved by a State approving agency, or the Secretary of Veterans Affairs when acting in the role of a State approving agency, that is converted from being offered on-site at an educational institution to being offered by distance learning by reason of an emergency or health-related situation, as determined by the Secretary, the Secretary may continue to provide educational assist-

ance under the laws administered by the Secretary without regard to such conversion, including with respect to paying any—

(1) monthly housing stipends under chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code; or

(2) payments or subsistence allowances under chapters 30, 31, 32, and 35 of such title and chapters 1606 and 1607 of title 10, United States Code.

(b) APPLICABILITY PERIOD.—Subsection (a) shall apply during the period beginning on March 1, 2020, and ending on December 21, 2020.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.—The term "educational institution" has the meaning given that term in section 3452 of title 38, United States Code, and includes an institution of higher learning (as defined in such section).

(2) PROGRAM OF EDUCATION.—The term "program of education" has the meaning given that term in section 3002 of title 38, United States Code.

(3) STATE APPROVING AGENCY.—The term "State approving agency" has the meaning given that term in section 3671 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 2. EMERGENCY DESIGNATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—This Act is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4(g) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(g)).

(b) DESIGNATION IN SENATE.—In the Senate, this Act is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4112(a) of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 544—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF MARCH 2020 AS "NATIONAL COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH"

Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 544

Whereas colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among men and women combined in the United States;

Whereas it is estimated that, in 2020, 147,950 individuals in the United States will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer and approximately 53,200 individuals will die from the disease;

Whereas colorectal cancer is one of the most preventable forms of cancer because screening tests can allow for the discovery and removal of polyps before the polyps become cancerous;

Whereas screening tests can detect colorectal cancer early, which is when the disease is most treatable;

Whereas the Secretary of Health and Human Services estimates that if every individual 50 years of age or older had regular screening tests, as many as 60 percent of deaths from colorectal cancer could be prevented;

Whereas the 5-year survival rate for patients with localized colorectal cancer is 90 percent, but only 39 percent of all diagnoses occur at this stage;

Whereas screening tests can reduce the incidence of colorectal cancer and mortality, but approximately 1 in 3 adults between 50 and 75 years of age are not current with recommended colorectal cancer screening;