

Thursday, May 6, 2021

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

The Senate met at 4 p.m. in pro forma session, and adjourned at 4:00:38 p.m. until 3 p.m., on Monday, May 10, 2021.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

The House was not in session today. The House is scheduled to meet at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, May 7, 2021.

Committee Meetings

TSA: PANDEMIC AND POST-PANDEMIC IMPLICATIONS FOR BUDGET AND OPERATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: On May 5, 2021, Subcommittee on Homeland Security held a hearing entitled “TSA: Pandemic and Post-Pandemic Implications for Budget and Operations”. Testimony was heard from Darby LaJoye, Senior Official Performing the Duties of Administrator, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security.

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Committee on Appropriations: On May 5, 2021, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on the Department of Education. Testimony was heard from Miguel Cardona, Secretary, Department of Education.

APPROPRIATIONS—U.S. ARMY

Committee on Appropriations: On May 5, 2021, Subcommittee on Defense held a budget hearing on the U.S. Army. Testimony was heard from General James C. McConville, Chief of Staff of the Army; and John E. Whitley, Acting Secretary of the Army.

RELATED AGENCIES—THE YEAR AHEAD

Committee on Appropriations: On May 5, 2021, Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “Related Agencies—The Year Ahead”. Testimony was heard from Margaret Bartley, Chief Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims; Robert J. Dalessandro, Acting Secretary, American Battle Monuments Commission; Karen Durham-Aguilera, Executive Director, Army National Military Cemeteries, Arlington National Cemetery, U.S. Army; and Major General Stephen T. Rippe, Chief Executive Officer, Armed Forces Retirement Home.

U.S. SECRET SERVICE OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Homeland Security held a hearing entitled “U.S. Secret Service Operational Priorities”. Testimony was heard from James Murray, Director, U.S. Secret Service.

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on the Department of Energy. Testimony was heard from Jennifer M. Granholm, Secretary, Department of Energy.

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT MISSION AREA

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “USDA Rural Development Mission Area”. Testimony was heard from the following Department of Agriculture officials: Justin Maxson, Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development; Christopher McLean, Acting Administrator, Rural Utilities Service; Karama Neal, Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service; and Chad Parker, Acting Administrator, Rural Housing Service.

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on the Department of Commerce. Testimony was heard from Gina M. Raimondo, Secretary, Department of Commerce.

MEMBER DAY

Committee on Armed Services: On May 5, 2021, Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Member Day”. Testimony was heard from Chairman Kilmer, and Representatives Foster, Welch, Scanlon, Schrader, Case, Arrington, San Nicolas, and Sherman.

SHIP AND SUBMARINE MAINTENANCE: SUSTAINMENT CONSIDERATIONS FOR A CHANGING FLEET

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness held a hearing entitled “Ship and Submarine Maintenance: Sustainment Considerations for a Changing Fleet”. Testimony was heard from Vice Admiral William J. Galinis, Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command; Rear Admiral Eric Ver Hage, Director, Surface Ship Maintenance and Modernization (SEA 21), Naval Sea Systems Command; and Rear Admiral Howard B. Markle, Deputy Commander, Logistics, Maintenance, and Industrial Operations (SEA 04), Naval Sea Systems Command.

CREATING A FRAMEWORK FOR RULES BASED ORDER IN SPACE

Committee on Armed Services: On May 5, 2021, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces; and Subcommittee on International Development, International Organizations and Global Corporate Social Impact of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs held a joint hearing entitled “Creating a Framework for Rules Based Order in Space”. Testimony was heard from Lieutenant General Stephen Whiting, Commander, Space Operations Command, U.S. Space Force, Department of Defense; John D. Hill, Performing the Duties of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Space

Policy, Department of Defense; Bruce Turner, Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance, Department of State; and Jonathan M. Moore, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Department of State.

LOWER DRUG COSTS NOW: EXPANDING ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

Committee on Education and Labor: On May 5, 2021, Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions held a hearing entitled “Lower Drug Costs Now: Expanding Access to Affordable Health Care”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Committee on Education and Labor: Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education held a hearing entitled “Addressing the Impact of COVID-19 on Students with Disabilities”. Testimony was heard from Danielle M. Kovach, Special Education Teacher, Tulsa Trail Elementary School, Hopatcong, New Jersey; and public witnesses.

THE CLEAN FUTURE ACT: DRIVING DECARBONIZATION OF THE TRANSPORTATION SECTOR

Committee on Energy and Commerce: On May 5, 2021, Subcommittee on Energy held a hearing entitled “The CLEAN Future Act: Driving Decarbonization of the Transportation Sector”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

BROADBAND EQUITY: ADDRESSING DISPARITIES IN ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a hearing entitled “Broadband Equity: Addressing Disparities in Access and Affordability”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

GAME STOPPED? WHO WINS AND LOSES WHEN SHORT SELLERS, SOCIAL MEDIA, AND RETAIL INVESTORS COLLIDE, PART III

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Game Stopped? Who Wins and Loses When Short Sellers, Social Media, and Retail Investors Collide, Part III”. Testimony was heard from Gary Gensler, Chairman, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission; and public witnesses.

REAFFIRMING THE GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT

Committee on Foreign Affairs: On May 5, 2021, Subcommittee on Europe, Energy, the Environment and Cyber held a hearing entitled “Reaffirming the Good Friday Agreement”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE ATROCITIES AGAINST UYGHURS AND OTHER MINORITIES IN XINJIANG

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Atrocities Against Uyghurs and Other Minorities in Xinjiang”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

RESPONDING TO RANSOMWARE: EXPLORING POLICY SOLUTIONS TO A CYBERSECURITY CRISIS

Committee on Homeland Security: On May 5, 2021, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Innovation held a hearing entitled “Responding to Ransomware: Exploring Policy Solutions to a Cybersecurity Crisis”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

STAKEHOLDER PERSPECTIVES ON ADDRESSING MIGRATION PUSH FACTORS

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Oversight, Management, and Accountability held a hearing entitled “Stakeholder Perspectives on Addressing Migration Push Factors”. Testimony was heard from Steve Hinkley, Sheriff, Calhoun County, Michigan; and public witnesses.

VOTING IN AMERICA: THE POTENTIAL FOR VOTER LIST PURGES TO INTERFERE WITH FREE AND FAIR ACCESS TO THE BALLOT

Committee on House Administration: Subcommittee on Elections held a hearing entitled “Voting in America: The Potential for Voter List Purges to Interfere with Free and Fair Access to the Ballot”. Testimony was heard from Joshua L. Kaul, Attorney General, Wisconsin; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT OF THE U.S. COPYRIGHT OFFICE

Committee on the Judiciary: On May 5, 2021, Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Oversight of the U.S. Copyright Office”. Testimony was heard from Shira Perlmutter, Register of Copyrights and Director, U.S. Copyright Office, Library of Congress.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: On May 5, 2021, Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 443, the “Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium Land Transfer

Act”; H.R. 1029, the “Free Veterans from Fees Act”; H.R. 1505, the “Bonding Reform and Taxpayer Protection Act of 2021”; H.R. 1506, the “Transparency in Energy Production Act of 2021”; H.R. 1517, the “Ending Taxpayer Welfare for Oil and Gas Companies Act of 2021”; and H.R. 2348, the “Advancing Conservation and Education Act”, and concluded a markup on H.R. 1503, the “Restoring Community Input and Public Protections in Oil and Gas Leasing Act of 2021”. H.R. 443, H.R. 1029, and H.R. 2348 were ordered reported, without amendment. H.R. 1503, H.R. 1505, H.R. 1506, H.R. 1517 were ordered reported, as amended.

MEMBER DAY

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Member Day”. Testimony was heard from Representatives Costa, Bost, Escobar, Hill, Valadao, and Rutherford.

PIPELINES OVER PEOPLE (PART II): MIDSHIP PIPELINE’S DISREGARD FOR LANDOWNERS IN ITS PATHWAY

Committee on Oversight and Reform: On May 5, 2021, Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties held a hearing entitled “Pipelines Over People (Part II): Midship Pipeline’s Disregard for Landowners in Its Pathway”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

BIRTHING WHILE BLACK: EXAMINING AMERICA’S BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH CRISIS

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Birthing While Black: Examining America’s Black Maternal Health Crisis”. Testimony was heard from Representatives Pressley, Bush, Underwood, and Adams; and public witnesses.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION: ADVANCING RESEARCH FOR THE FUTURE OF U.S. INNOVATION PART II

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Research and Technology held a hearing entitled “National Science Foundation: Advancing Research for the Future of U.S. Innovation Part II”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

GROWING JOBS THROUGH INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Workforce Development held a hearing entitled “Growing Jobs through Infrastructure Investment”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

WHEN UNLIMITED POTENTIAL MEETS LIMITED RESOURCES: THE BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES OF HIGH-SPEED RAIL AND EMERGING RAIL TECHNOLOGIES

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials held a hearing entitled “When Unlimited Potential Meets Limited Resources: The Benefits and Challenges of High-Speed Rail and Emerging Rail Technologies”. Testimony was heard from Phillip Washington, Chief Executive Officer, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, California; Carbett Duhon III, Judge, Waller County, Texas; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: On May 5, 2021, Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 1273, the “Vietnam Veterans Liver Fluke Study Act”; H.R. 1355, the “K2 Veterans Care Act of 2021”; H.R. 1585, the “Mark Takai Atomic Veterans Healthcare Parity Act of 2021”; H.R. 1972, the “Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act of 2021”; H.R. 2127, the “TEAM Act”; H.R. 2268, the “Keeping Our Promises Act”; H.R. 2368, the “COVENANT Act”; H.R. 2372, the “Presumptive Benefits for War Fighters Exposed to Burn Pits and Other Toxins Act”; H.R. 2436, the “Veterans Burn Pits Exposure Recognition Act of 2021”; H.R. 2530, the “Enewetak Atoll Cleanup Radiation Study Act”; H.R. 2569, the “Veterans Agent Orange Exposure Equity Act”; H.R. 2580, the “Palomares Veterans Act of 2021”; H.R. 2607, the “FASTER Presumptions Act”; H.R. 2742, the “PFAS Registry Act of 2021”; and H.R. 2825, the “Fort McClellan Health Registry Act”. Testimony was heard from Representatives Bost, Luria, Nehls, Pappas, Slotkin, Trone, Ruiz, Westerman, Lynch, Zeldin, Tonko, Cartwright, and Hayes; Ronald Burke, Deputy Under Secretary for Policy and Oversight, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

TRANSFORMING THE VA WORKFORCE: ASSESSING PROGRESS ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION INITIATIVES

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Transforming the VA Workforce: Assessing

Progress on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiatives”. Testimony was heard from Harvey Johnson, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Resolution Management, Diversity and Inclusion, Office of Resolution Management, Diversity and Inclusion, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Ways and Means: On May 5, 2021, Full Committee held a markup on the Budget Views and Estimates Letter; and H.R. 2954, the “Securing a Strong Retirement Act of 2021”. The Budget Views and Estimates Letter was adopted, and H.R. 2954 was ordered reported, without amendment.

CONGRESSIONAL STAFF CAPACITY: IMPROVING STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, INCREASING RETENTION AND COMPETING FOR TOP TALENT

Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Congressional Staff Capacity: Improving Staff Professional Development, Increasing Retention and Competing for Top Talent”. Testimony was heard from Catherine Szpindor, Chief Administrative Officer, U.S. House of Representatives; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, MAY 7, 2021

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Defense, budget hearing on the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Space Force, 12 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Financial Services, Task Force on Artificial Intelligence, hearing entitled “Equitable Algorithms: How Human-Centered AI Can Address Systemic Racism and Racial Justice in Housing and Financial Services”, 12 p.m., Webex.