

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.