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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE *117<sup>th</sup>* CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

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No. 180

## *House of Representatives*

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, October 15, 2021, at 12 p.m.

## *Senate*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2021

The Senate met at 5 and 8 seconds p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CORY A. BOOKER, a Senator from the State of New Jersey.

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### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant Parliamentarian read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, October 14, 2021.

*To the Senate:*

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CORY A. BOOKER, a Senator from the State of New Jersey, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,  
*President pro tempore.*

Mr. BOOKER thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

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### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2021, AT 3 P.M.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, October 18, 2021.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 5 and 59 seconds p.m., adjourned until Monday, October 18, 2021, at 3 p.m.

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- This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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# Daily Digest

## Senate

### *Chamber Action*

The Senate met at 5:00:08 p.m. in pro forma session, and adjourned at 5:00:59 p.m. until 3 p.m., on Monday, October 18, 2021.

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### *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 in Pro Forma session at 12 p.m. on Friday, October 15, 2021.

### *Committee Meetings*

#### **INVESTING IN AMERICAN JOBS: LEGISLATION TO STRENGTHEN MANUFACTURING AND COMPETITIVENESS**

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce held a hearing entitled “Investing in American Jobs: Legislation to Strengthen Manufacturing and Competitiveness”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

#### **BEYOND I, ROBOT: ETHICS, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, AND THE DIGITAL AGE**

*Committee on Financial Services:* On October 13, 2021, Task Force on Artificial Intelligence held a hearing entitled “Beyond I, Robot: Ethics, Artificial Intelligence, and the Digital Age”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

#### **CASHED OUT: HOW A CASHLESS ECONOMY IMPACTS DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES AND PEOPLES**

*Committee on Financial Services:* Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations hearing entitled “Cashed Out: How a Cashless Economy Impacts Disadvantaged Communities and Peoples”. Testimony was heard from Alex Valdez, Member, Colorado House of Representatives; and public witnesses.

#### **TUNISIA: EXAMINING THE STATE OF DEMOCRACY AND NEXT STEPS FOR U.S. POLICY**

*Committee on Foreign Affairs:* Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and Global Counterterrorism held a hearing entitled “Tunisia: Examining the State of Democracy and Next Steps for U.S. Policy”. Testimony was heard from Alexis Arieff, Specialist in African Affairs, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress; and public witnesses.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES**

*Committee on Natural Resources:* On October 13, 2021, Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 160, the “Restoring Resilient Reefs Act of 2021”; H.R. 442, the “Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium Land Transfer Act”; H.R. 570, the “Offshore Accountability Act of 2021”; H.R. 897, the “Agua Caliente Land Exchange Fee to Trust Confirmation Act”; H.R. 1286, the “Southern Campaign of the Revolution National Heritage Corridor Act of 2021”; H.R. 1975, the “Pala Band of Mission Indians Land Transfer Act of 2021”; H.R. 2024, the “Southern Maryland National Heritage Area Act”; H.R. 2074, the “Indian Buffalo Management Act”; H.R. 2088, the “Eastern Band of Cherokee Historic Lands Reacquisition Act”; H.R. 2107, the “Nation’s Oldest Port National Heritage Area Act”; H.R. 2643, the “Offshore Pipeline Safety Act”; H.R. 2930, the “Safeguard Tribal Objects of Patrimony Act of 2021”; H.R. 3075, the “Illegal Fishing and Forced Labor Prevention Act”; H.R. 3222, the “Alabama Black Belt National Heritage Area Act”; H.R.

3670, the “Simplifying Outdoor Access for Recreation Act”; H.R. 4881, the “Old Pascua Community Land Acquisition Act”; and H.R. 5221, the “Urban Indian Health Confer Act”. H.R. 160, H.R. 1286, H.R. 2024, H.R. 2074, H.R. 2107, H.R. 2643, H.R. 2930, H.R. 3075, H.R. 3222, and H.R. 3670 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 442, H.R. 570, H.R. 897, H.R. 1975, H.R. 2088, H.R. 4881, and H.R. 5221 were ordered reported, without amendment.

## LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

*Committee on Natural Resources:* Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands held a hearing on H.R. 149, the “Peter J. McGuire Labor Day Landmark Act”; H.R. 250, the “January 8th National Memorial Act”; H.R. 3197, the “Save the Liberty Theatre Act of 2021”; H.R. 3531, the “Women Who Worked on the Home Front World War II Memorial Act”; H.R. 4009, the “Georgetown Waterfront Enslaved Voyages Memorial Act”; H.R. 4380, to designate the El Paso Community Healing Garden National Memorial, and for other purposes; H.R. 4454, the “Reconciliation in Place Names Act”; H.R. 4648, the “Cane River Creole National Historical Park Boundary Modification Act”; H.R. 4706, the “Blackwell School National Historic Site Act”. Testimony was heard from Representatives Green of Texas, Norton, Gonzalez of Texas, and Johnson of Louisiana; Mike Caldwell, Acting Associate Director, Park Planning, Facilities, and Lands, National Park Service, Department of the Interior; Scott A. Fontenot, Mayor, Eunice, Louisiana; Rodney Ellis, Commissioner, Commissioners Court of Harris County, Texas; and public witnesses.

## IMPACTS OF ABANDONED OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE NEED FOR STRONGER FEDERAL OVERSIGHT

*Committee on Natural Resources:* Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing entitled “Impacts of Abandoned Offshore Oil and Gas Infrastructure and the Need for Stronger Federal Oversight”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

## THE FUTURE OF FORECASTING: BUILDING A WEATHER-READY NATION ON ALL FRONTS

*Committee on Science, Space, and Technology:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Future of Forecasting: Building a Weather-Ready Nation on All Fronts”. Testimony was heard from Louis Uccellini, Assistant Administrator for Weather Services and Director, National Weather Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce; Cardell Johnson, Acting Director,

Natural Resources and Environment, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

## GROWING THE SMALL BUSINESS SUPPLIER BASE IN GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING

*Committee on Small Business:* On October 13, 2021, Subcommittee on Contracting and Infrastructure held a hearing entitled “Growing the Small Business Supplier Base in Government Contracting”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENT EXTREMIST GROUPS AND THE RECRUITMENT OF VETERANS

*Committee on Veterans’ Affairs:* On October 13, 2021, Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Domestic Violent Extremist Groups and the Recruitment of Veterans”. Testimony was heard from Lieutenant Colonel Joe Plenzler (Ret.), Veteran, U.S. Marine Corps; and public witnesses.

## LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

*Committee on Veterans’ Affairs:* On October 13, 2021, Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on H.R. 2819, the “Solid Start Act of 2021”; H.R. 2916, the “VA Cannabis Research Act of 2021”; H.R. 4575, the “Veteran Peer Specialist Act of 2021”; H.R. 4794, the “Making Advances in Mammography and Medical Options for Veterans Act”; H.R. 5029, the “Expanding the Families of Veterans Access to Mental Health Services Act”; H.R. 5073, the “Revising and Expediting Actions for the Crisis Hotline for Veterans Act”; H.R. 5317, the “VA Governors Challenge Expansion Act of 2021”; legislation on the Veterans Census-Enabled National Treatment Equitable Resources Supplement for Mental Health Act of 2021; legislation authorizing VA to furnish seasonal influenza vaccines to individuals who are eligible for COVID-19 vaccines under the SAVE LIVES Act, P.L. 117-4; legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care from the Department of Veterans Affairs to include veterans of World War II; legislation on the Department of Veterans Affairs Nurse and Physician Assistant Retention and Income Security Enhancement Act; legislation to improve VA’s Veterans Justice Outreach Program; and legislation to require VA to report to Congress within one year of enactment on the Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership program, which supports student veteran mental health. Testimony was heard from Chairman Takano, and Representatives Peters, Rouzer, Delgado, Ellzey, Harder of California, Underwood, Miller-Meeks, and Sherrill; David Carroll, Executive Director, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

## Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

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### COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2021

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

#### Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

### House

*Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Housing, Community Development and Insurance, hearing entitled “Zoned Out: Examining the Impact of Exclusionary Zoning on People, Resources, and Opportunity”, 12 p.m., Webex.*

*Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife, hearing entitled “Colorado River Drought Conditions and Response Measures—Day One”, 2 p.m., Webex.*

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*  
3 p.m., Monday, October 18

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*  
12 noon, Friday, October 15

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Senate Chamber

**Program for Monday:** Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Christine P. O’Hearn, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

At 5:30 p.m., Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Gustavo A. Gelpi, of Puerto Rico, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit.

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House Chamber

**Program for Friday:** House will meet in Pro Forma session at 12 noon.



# Congressional Record

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