



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025

No. 46

Senate

The Senate met at 6:40 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN R. CURTIS, a Senator from the State of Utah.

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. GRASSLEY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 11, 2025.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN R. CURTIS, a Senator from the State of Utah, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the morning hour be deemed expired.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Journal of proceedings be approved to date.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. 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 ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 924. A bill making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1968. An act making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR EN BLOC—H.R. 1968 and S. 924

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I understand that there are two bills at the desk due for a second reading en bloc.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The leader is correct.

The clerk will read the bills by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1968) making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 924) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes.

Mr. THUNE. In order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceeding en bloc.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bills will be placed on the calendar.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 11 a.m. on Wednesday, March 12; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of Calendar No. 31; further, at 12 noon, the Senate vote on cloture on the Miran nomination, and if cloture is invoked on the Miran nomination, the postcloture time expire at 2:15 p.m. and the Senate vote on confirmation of the Miran nomination; further, if cloture is invoked on the Sonderling nomination, the postcloture time expire at 5:15 p.m. and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination; finally, if any nominations are confirmed during Wednesday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of Senator BLUMENTHAL.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

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



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S1677

The Senator from Connecticut.

VETERANS SERVICES

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, my thanks to Senator THUNE for yielding and the Presiding Officer for presiding over the balance of the day.

I am here with sadness—not for the first time and, tragically, not for the last, I fear—because I am here to speak to the decimation and destruction of veterans services ongoing in real time, right before our eyes, affecting real people in their daily lives. And it is a tragedy and a travesty because the people affected are our Nation's heroes, whom we all say we respect, but in practice, right now, Elon Musk and Donald Trump have launched an assault to degrade and denigrate.

Donald Trump has called veterans suckers. Elon Musk shows the same kind of disrespect in the cuts, in hiring freezes, and in reductions in amounts of research—a panoply, a tsunami, of cuts in both resources and workers that are essential to the VA's functions in providing healthcare as well as PACT Act benefits that veterans have earned. They deserve them without delay. And this assault on veterans is unprecedented in our Nation's history.

We had a hearing this morning in the VA Committee on various pieces of legislation, some of them probably positive in the effects that they may have if we pass them. I have cosponsored some of them and will support others. But their meaning and effect will be absolutely eviscerated if these cuts—including 80,000 workers in addition to the 2,400 already fired—are, in fact, discharged in the future.

The plan that the Secretary of the VA has stated—it is his word, “plan”—is to fire 80,000 workers. It is his goal. He said it in an interview, and I ask unanimous consent that that interview be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From Fox News, Mar. 11, 2025]

CHANGES THAT ACTUALLY HELP OUR VETERANS: VA SECRETARY DEFENDS PROPOSED 15% WORKFORCE REDUCTION

(By Deirdre Heavey)

Veterans Affairs Secretary Doug Collins has been steadfast in his commitment to shake up the department. And, despite firing at least 2,400 employees, Collins pledges to maintain the VA's commitment to preserving and improving healthcare benefits for veterans.

“VA's biggest problem is that its bureaucracy and inefficiencies are getting in the way of customer convenience and service to veterans. As I have said before, we owe American veterans and hundreds of thousands of amazing employees solutions. And mark my words, that is what we will deliver,” Collins said in a video posted on X last week.

Collins said the VA dismissals are part of President Donald Trump's commitment to making government more efficient and effective, in conjunction with Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). The VA announced that last month's personnel moves will save more than \$83 million

annually, and they will “redirect all of those resources back toward health care, benefits and services for VA beneficiaries.”

Collins, who has faced criticism for his proposed 15% workforce reduction, confirmed the VA's goal to cut 80,000 jobs during a “Fox & Friends” interview with Brian Kilmeade on Monday.

“Please, before Democrats or anybody else start on this path, this is going to be a deliberative process that's going to take some time that's going to include career VA employees. It's going to include senior executives. It's going to include all across, even bringing in people if need be, to take a look at: are we being efficient?” Collins told Kilmeade.

Collins has shut down criticism from the mainstream media and Democrats who have slammed VA cuts, reminding Kilmeade on Monday that operational issues have long plagued the VA.

“Let's all agree on something that for the past 10 years, the GAO has reported that the VA healthcare has been at a high-risk. In other words, they're on the high-risk list for not only the possibility of fraud, waste and abuse, but also in patient quality, patient care. This has been going on for 10 years. It's interesting to me that they're looking at wait times. These are things that have preceded me coming in. I've been here for weeks, but it's interesting that there's no solutions being proposed,” Collins said.

Veterans have reported poor healthcare conditions at the VA for decades, including long wait times, delayed care, slow processing times and corruption. While the Trump administration's VA has only investigated 2% of their contracts so far, Collins said they have already identified 600 non-mission-critical or duplicate agreements to save almost \$1 billion. Collins said that money can be reinvested into making “changes that actually help our veterans.”

“The money we're saving by eliminating non-mission critical and duplicative contracts is money we're going to redirect to veterans facing healthcare benefits and services, resulting in massive improvements in customer service and convenience. Improving services to the veterans is exactly why the VA exists. That is what everyone—Congress, the media and VA employees—should be focused on,” Collins said.

Collins has emphasized there will be no cuts to healthcare or benefits for veterans.

“We're going to accomplish this without making cuts to healthcare or benefits to veterans and VA beneficiaries. VA will always fulfill its duty to provide veterans, families, caregivers and survivors the healthcare and benefits they have earned. That's a promise. And while we conduct our review, VA will continue to hire for more than 300,000 mission-critical positions to ensure healthcare and benefits for VA beneficiaries are not impacted,” Collins said.

Despite Collins' reassurances, Democrats have slammed the Trump administration and DOGE for VA cuts. House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., led a press conference with fellow Democrats on the issue last week at the U.S. Capitol.

“Why lay off veterans? I mean, 30% of the federal workforce is veterans, including a lot of people who've been laid off at the CFPB. Can you at least show some compassion to veterans?” Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., told Fox News Digital following a meeting with Consumer Financial Protection Bureau employees who were impacted by federal workforce reductions.

“They're going to gut the Department of Veterans Affairs, jeopardizing the health and well-being of millions of veterans,” Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., said at a rally in Wisconsin on Friday.

“Cutting the VA and some of the proposals I've seen are going to hurt service to veterans. So let's agree that that's a bad idea. Bipartisan. It's a bad idea to do that,” Sen. Elissa Slotkin, D-Mich., told NBC's “Meet the Press” on Sunday.

“I go to the VA myself, so I see every day the waiting lists, the long lines to get care, how long it takes to get an appointment. All of that is going to get worse,” Rep. Seth Moulton, D-Mass., told MSNBC on Saturday.

Veterans have been speaking out against the proposed VA cuts as well. Veterans are organizing a protest against VA cuts and “Project 2025” on Friday, March 14, in Washington, D.C., and at state capitals across the country.

VoteVets, a progressive political action committee, released a memo last week outlining the “extensive damage in the department's ability to process and pay out benefits.” However, Collins said firing non-essential employees and reevaluating contracts is how the Trump administration is “finally going to give the veterans what they want.”

“The VA has been a punching bag among veterans, Congress and the media for decades. Things need to change. We owe America's veterans and the hundreds and thousands of excellent VA employees solutions. For many years, veterans have been asking for a more efficient, accountable and transparent VA. This administration is finally going to give the veterans what they want,” Collins said.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, but we did learn in this legislative hearing that, in fact, there is no plan. The 80,000-worker target for firing is in the absence of any plan. It is the target. It is the goal. It is the intention: Fire now, plan later. No plan, no metrics, no methodology, no strategy for right-sizing the VA.

Now, we know a right-sized VA needs every one of those 2,400 workers who have been discharged now. It needs every one of the 80,000 that are targeted in the next few months to be fired. And we learned this morning that there are, in fact, open positions—36,000 of them, including more than 3,000 positions for doctors, thousands others for nurses, thousands for the custodians who maintain the VA healthcare properties.

We are talking about real people who will be fired who are on the job doing essential work right now, and we are talking about discharging people when there are open positions, a need for more doctors, nurses, and others. How is that going to work for recruiting? Not so well when the VA is firing exactly the people whose positions it is trying to fill. That is absolutely a disgrace, and it will be seen as a disgrace by anybody wanting to serve in the VA.

We also learned today that the VA is focusing on legislative measures that will make it easier to fire people, that will more readily enable it to discharge people without stating a reason, without a performance-related reason for firing them.

So we are seeing the biggest attack and assault on veterans' access to care and benefits at least in a generation and maybe in our history, and Trump and Musk have already fired more veterans than any administration before now.

But the numbers fail to adequately tell the story because it is a story of heartbreaking loss as a result of heartless decisions—loss of healthcare on a timely basis, loss of benefits, fear from people who have earned the right to security when it comes to healthcare or the PACT Act.

Over the weekend, there was an article in the New York Times that described some of this real impact going on right now: a VA clinical trial for treating advanced cancers of the mouth put on hold; a VA supply technician whose role was described as critical, fired; a vet center office manager fired, leaving therapists, who should be treating patients, using their precious time sitting at the front desk to check in the patients.

Talk about waste. What we are seeing in real time is not just heartless, heartbreaking firing and deprivation of care; we are seeing waste of talents and time that cry out for action. And in fact, we are hearing that cry from thousands of constituents of my colleagues from all around the country.

This chart shows where we have received complaints and stories from people. Some of their words are here:

Please do not let this administration take all of this away from not only me, but thousands of other Veterans in my similar situation.

I'm a spouse of a 100 percent permanent and total disabled veteran with two young kids. I am scared to fight back and have them target me to eliminate my job entirely, so I just have to take it to protect my family's only income.

The VA provides the veterans community with excellent healthcare in my area, and anything done to devalue that care or its facilities would be detrimental to the veteran community.

The blue represents the States that we have heard from—almost every State in the country, some with many different complaints but all of them expressing fear, apprehension, and anger at what they see as the looming additional cuts in care coming to their communities.

This administration, very simply, is failing to put veterans first.

Let me tell you about a veteran who knows that it is failing to put him first, a veteran on the west coast who shared his story.

I lost part of my foot serving this country, and now, people with zero military experience are gutting the benefits Veterans have earned.

And he continued:

If it were not for the VA, I would not have been able to be in the position I am in now. I own a home and I am able to manage my anxiety with therapy and medication.

He was homeless in 2012. He would go to the library every day to search for—he was not receiving any VA benefits. He didn't know he was eligible. Once he knew about it and he signed up and the healthcare and disability benefits began, he was "propelled . . . into success." He was able to rent an apartment, purchase a car, get a job—"all thanks to the VA." "All thanks to the VA."

And his final comment was:

Please do not let this administration take all of that away from not only me, but thousands of other Veterans in my similar situation.

He knows this administration is not putting veterans first.

What I was hoping to hear in today's hearing was a call to action. Well, we didn't hear a call to action. In fact, we didn't even hear from the Secretary of the VA, who has dodged our questions, refused to answer them, who has failed to be transparent with our committee and with Members of Congress. I was hoping that he would be there or at least that he would be invited to a date certain, but none of it happened.

Instead, the agenda included legislation that attempts to make it even easier for the VA to fire employees. It ignores what is happening on the ground, ignoring the illegal mass terminations of those 2,400 VA employees, with tens of thousands of firings now in the works. That is no way to put veterans first. It is illegal; it is unlawful; it is reckless; and it is morally repugnant because it involves breaking promises.

A great nation keeps its promises, as we promised to veterans that we would provide for their healthcare, that we would give them the benefits of the PACT Act, that we would care for them after they were exposed to toxic chemicals, that we would give them skilled training and job assistance—all of it now potentially ended, at least for a lot of those veterans, because there is a funny thing about service: It is difficult to provide service in an empty office with an empty chair behind an empty desk. Service really does consist of people helping each other. Veterans know it better than anyone because peer-to-peer veterans programs work better than any other kind, and it is one of the reasons why it is important that 30 percent of the Veterans' Administration workforce are themselves veterans. They help each other.

It is no accident that many of those provisional employees who were fired—they are the ones who were fired first—are veterans as well because they are coming out of the service and they are looking for meaningful and productive ways to help other veterans.

I am introducing this week a measure called the Putting Veterans First Act. Essentially, it is a comprehensive effort to "stop the bleeding." I am quoting the commander-in-chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars—"stop the bleeding." Put pressure on and "stop the bleeding" is what he told us in one of our hearings.

The best way to stop this administration from actively robbing and rolling back our recent bipartisan accomplishments, canceling contracts critical to the implementation of the Dole Act or the Deborah Sampson Act, firing thousands of workers critical to the basic functioning of the PACT Act, from the schedulers who connect veterans to care to the claims staff who process

those PACT Act claims—the best way to stop the bleeding is to put veterans first.

No. 1, hire back all of the veterans who have been fired. No matter what the Agency, hire back those veterans along with all of the military spouses, the veteran caregivers, survivors, members of the Guard and Reserve. They, too, served. Hire back all the VA employees who have been fired, whether or not they are veterans or military spouses or veteran caregivers, survivors, members of the Guard and Reserve—everyone that has been fired from the VA.

Then, if the administration wants to eliminate waste and fraud, let's have some standards, performance-based standards, not just "You are fired because we don't need you" when, in fact, they are needed. But more to the point, any sort of firing ought to be based on individual performance.

Nobody is arguing here that there is no waste in the VA. Nobody is arguing that there is no waste in other Agencies of the Federal Government any more than we would argue there is no waste in any American corporation. Everybody knows there is waste. The trick is to eliminate the waste without throwing the baby out with the bathwater—or to use a much more direct analogy that came from Al Lipphardt, the commander-in-chief of the VFW—when he was wounded in Vietnam, the surgeon took shrapnel out of his arm with a scalpel; he didn't amputate the arm.

Exactly the same choice faces us here—performance-based criteria and standards and a means of appeal for those employees who may be terminated, a means of readily bringing their claim about improper firing to some kind of appeal that is based on performance and merit. It ought to be a matter of merit, not just money, not just slashing and trashing—merit, and then hiring to replace that person. If that person has no merit, fill the position so the job can be done because the need is there. Of course, notice to Congress, to labor partners, and impacted employees before instituting any changes to telework or remote work policies, allowing time for employees to submit reasonable accommodation requests to their supervisors, which would help a veteran, spouse, and caregiver. I have been contacted by those kinds of spouses, like the spouse of a 100-percent disabled veteran with two kids:

I have worked for the Feds for 20 years. My spouse was Active Duty. I am also ADA disabled myself, performed full-time telework for 5 years successfully, including preCOVID with reasonable accommodation. The Agency is re-adjudicating my lifelong disabilities and telework accommodations, even though the prior one approved had no expiration date.

When Trump or Musk talk about mandating return to office—I personally love being in the office. As a former prosecutor, I think being in the office makes managing a workforce

easier in some institutions but not all and not for all employees and certainly not for the disabled veteran who wrote to me. This employee has outstanding performance reviews, and her duties haven't changed. The only change here is the one prompted by President Trump's draconian return-to-office policy.

The Putting Veterans First Act would take other commonsense veterans-first action, such as prohibiting—and this one is really important—prohibiting unauthorized, unlawful access to veterans' data and VA systems by unqualified, uninformed tech bros.

Well, we know what is happening in the VA. Elon Musk's tech bro elves are muscling and plundering their way through the VA's database.

Now, you may say: What is harmful about access to private, confidential, sensitive information potentially about healthcare?

Well, it is an invasion of privacy, but No. 2, it is also illegal. It is potentially a monetization of your information, used for Elon Musk's corporations to make more money or to be shared with his fellow billionaires so they can make more money.

That invasion of privacy, the monetization and possibly weaponization of that information, would be prohibited by the Putting Veterans First Act. It is comprehensive, it is specific, and it makes a priority of protecting veterans and putting them first.

Now, I don't want to exaggerate the chances of this measure passing in the

next month. I am very clear-eyed. I recognize that the administration will put a full-court press against us, that Elon Musk will perhaps denounce it. But I think we have on our side an indomitable, undefeatable, and indefatigable force, and that is veterans, because I am listening to the veterans service organizations who came before our committee on prior days and this morning, representatives from the American Legion, Mr. Coyle from the VFW, and Mr. Murray. We have heard from other organizations that have expressed their concerns about what is happening at the VA. They can put a face and voice to this issue. Their support for putting veterans first can make an absolutely critical difference.

So I want to make a plea to our veterans: You may feel you don't need it, but there is no question you deserve it.

The ones who need it really deserve it as well. They deserve to be put first. They deserve to have no fear or uncertainty or insecurity about whether they live in a State that will not be receiving the kind of benefits and care under the PACT Act or their VA facility won't be renovated or their doctor will be gone or nurses will be missing, their positions unfilled. They deserve to know with the kind of certainty they have earned.

We all talk about our veterans as heroes, which they are, but let's put our money where our mouths are. Let's be measured by what we do, not what we say. And I am extending an arm and a hand to my colleagues across the aisle to join me in this comprehensive bill

that guarantees veterans what they have earned and what they deserve against someone whom we didn't choose—nobody did except Donald Trump. Elon Musk is unelected, unappointed, and unconfirmed, and his DOGE boys are depriving our veterans of what they have earned.

We can't lose hope or energy. We can't abandon our veterans. We can't surrender in this battle. Our veterans have served, and they can continue to serve by helping their brothers and sisters make sure that the Veterans' Administration puts veterans first.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 11 A.M. TOMORROW

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 11 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:07 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at 11 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate March 11, 2025:

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

STEVEN BRADBURY, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ABIGAIL SLATER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

(Legislative Days of Monday, March 10, 2025, and Tuesday, March 11, 2025)

Routine Proceedings, pages S1641–S1680

Measures Introduced: Forty-eight bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 925–972, S.J. Res. 36–37, S. Res. 123, and S. Con. Res. 10.
Pages S1662–64

Measures Passed:

Justice for Murder Victims Act: Senate passed S. 960, to ensure that homicides can be prosecuted under Federal law without regard to the time elapsed between the act or omission that caused the death of the victim and the death itself.
Pages S1675–76

Measures Considered:

Halt All Lethal Trafficking of Fentanyl Act—Cloture: Senate continued consideration of S. 331, to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and taking action on the following amendment proposed thereto:
Page S1659

Pending:

Thune (for Grassley) Amendment No. 1237, of a perfecting nature.
Page S1659

A motion was entered to close further debate on the bill, 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 Jeffrey Kessler, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security.
Page S1659

Pulte Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of William Pulte, of Florida, to be Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency for a term of five years.
Page S1659

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 Keith Sonderling, of Florida, to be Deputy Secretary of Labor
Page S1659

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

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.
Page S1659

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.
Page S1659

Kessler Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Jeffrey Kessler, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security.
Page S1659

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 William Pulte, of Florida, to be Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency for a term of five years.
Page S1659

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

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.
Page S1659

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.
Page S1659

Miran and Sonderling Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 11 a.m., on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Stephen Miran, of New York, to be Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers; that at 12 noon, Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon; if cloture is invoked on the nomination of Stephen Miran, the post-cloture time expire at 2:15 p.m., and Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination; if cloture is invoked on the nomination of Keith Sonderling, of Florida, to be Deputy Secretary of Labor, the post-cloture time expire at 5:15 p.m., and Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination.
Page S1677

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 51 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 113), Steven Bradbury, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Transportation.
Pages S1641–49, S1680

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 51 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 112), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S1649**

By 78 yeas to 19 nays (Vote No. EX. 115), Abigail Slater, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General. **Pages S1058–59, S1680**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 77 yeas to 19 nays (Vote No. EX. 114), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S1649**

Messages from the House: **Page S1662**

Measures Referred: **Page S1662**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S1677**

Measures Read the First Time: **Pages S1662, S1675**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S1662**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S1664–66**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:
Pages S1666–68

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S1668–75**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S1675**

Record Votes: Four record votes were taken today. (Total—115) **Pages S1648–49, S1658–59**

Motion to Adjourn: Senate agreed to the motion to adjourn until 6:40 p.m., on Tuesday, March 11, 2025. **Page S1176**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:39 p.m., and reconvened at 6:40 p.m., on the same day, and adjourned at 7:07 p.m., until 11 a.m., on Wednesday, March 12, 2025. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1680.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine risk management, credit, and rural business views on the agricultural economy, focusing on views from the field, after receiving testimony from Tara Durbin, Farm Credit Mid-America, Louisville, Kentucky; Caleb Hopkins, First Dakota National Bank, Halibur, Iowa, on behalf of American Bankers Association; Sedrick Rowe, Rowe Organic Farms, Albany, Georgia; Dalynn Hoch, Rural Community Insurance Services, Anoka, Minnesota; and Ben Noble, Riceland Foods, Stuttgart, Arkansas.

MILITARY HEALTH SYSTEM

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine stabilizing the Military Health System to prepare for large-scale combat operations, after receiving testimony from Lieutenant General Douglas J. Robb, USAF (Ret.), former Director of the Defense Health Agency, Major General Paul A. Friedrichs, USAF (Ret.), former Joint Staff Surgeon, and Colonel Jeremy W. Cannon, USAFR (Ret.), University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine, all of the Department of Defense.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Armed Services: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Stephen Feinberg, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary, and John Phelan, of Florida, to be Secretary of the Navy, both of the Department of Defense.

STOP CSAM ACT

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime and Counterterrorism concluded a hearing to examine the STOP CSAM Act, after receiving testimony from Michelle DeLaune, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Alexandria, Virginia; Greg Schiller, Child Rescue Coalition, Boca Raton, Florida; John Tanagho, International Justice Mission, Washington, D.C.; John Pizzuro, Raven, Irving, Texas; and Taylor Sines, Maryland.

LEGISLATION

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine S. 124, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for disciplinary procedures for supervisors and managers at the Department of Veterans Affairs and to modify the procedures of personnel actions against employees of the Department, S. 201, to provide for a study by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine on the prevalence and mortality of cancer among individuals who served as active duty aircrew in the Armed Forces, S. 275, to improve the provision of care and services under the Veterans Community Care Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 410, to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to improve benefits and services for surviving spouses, S. 478, to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from transmitting certain information to the Department of Justice for use by the national instant criminal background check system, S. 607, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish an integrated project team to improve the process for scheduling appointments for health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 610, to expand

the VetSuccess on Campus program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 611, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and to expand eligibility for dependency and indemnity compensation paid to certain survivors of certain veterans, S. 654, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish an external provider scheduling program to assist the Department of Veterans Affairs in scheduling appointments for care and services under the Veterans Community Care Program, S. 702, to require a study on the quality of care difference between mental health and addiction therapy care provided by health care providers of the Department of Veterans Affairs compared to non-Department providers, S. 787, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a commission to review operations at the Veterans Health Administration and submit to Congress reports with respect to that review, and for other programs, S. 831, to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to improve telephone communication by the

Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 892, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the repayment by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of benefits misused by a fiduciary, an original bill entitled, “Veterans’ Claims Act of 2025”, and an original bill entitled, “Servicemembers and Veterans Empowerment and Support Act”, after receiving testimony from Mark R. Engelbaum, Assistant Secretary, Office of Human Resources and Administration/Operations, Security, and Preparedness, Al Montoya, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Veterans Health Administration, and Melissa Cohen, Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Policy and Oversight, Kenesha Britton, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Field Operations, Kevin Friel, Executive Director, Pension and Fiduciary Service, each of the Veterans Benefits Administration, all of the Department of Veterans Affairs; and Cole Lyle, The American Legion, Ashlynn Haycock-Lohmann, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, and Patrick Murray, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, all of Washington, D.C.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 69 public bills, H.R. 2023–2091; and 10 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 19; and H. Res. 212–220, were introduced. **Pages H1147–51**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H1153–54**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 211, providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 25) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service relating to “Gross Proceeds Reporting by Brokers That Regularly Provide Services Effectuating Digital Asset Sales”; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1156) to amend the CARES Act to extend the statute of limitations for fraud under certain unemployment programs, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1968) making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes; and for other purposes (H. Rept. 119–15). **Page H1147**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative De La Cruz to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H1071**

Recess: The House recessed at 11:21 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. **Page H1080**

Returning Senate Joint Resolution 3 to the Senate: The House agreed to H. Res. 212, returning Senate Joint Resolution 3 to the Senate. **Page H1093**

Pandemic Unemployment Fraud Enforcement Act: The House passed H.R. 1156, to amend the CARES Act to extend the statute of limitations for fraud under certain unemployment programs, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 295 yeas to 127 nays, Roll No. 68. **Pages H1093–99, H1124**

Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. **Page H1083**

H. Res. 211, the rule providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 25) and the bills (H.R. 1156) and (H.R. 1968) was agreed to be a recorded vote of 215 yeas to 214 nays, Roll No. 67, after the previous question was ordered by a yeas-and-nays vote of 216 yeas to 212 nays, Roll No. 66. **Pages H1092–93**

Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025: The House passed H.R. 1968, making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30,

2025, by a yea-and-nay vote of 217 yeas to 213 nays, Roll No. 70. **Pages H1102–1124, H1125–26**

Rejected the Meng motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations with a yea-and-nay vote of 213 yeas to 216 nays, Roll No. 69.

Pages H1124–25

Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment printed in H. Rept. 119–15 shall be considered as adopted.

Page H1102

H. Res. 211, the rule providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 25) and the bills (H.R. 1156) and (H.R. 1968) was agreed to be a recorded vote of 215 yeas to 214 noes, Roll No. 67, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 216 yeas to 212 nays, Roll No. 66.

Pages H1092–93

Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service relating to “Gross Proceeds Reporting by Brokers That Regularly Provide Services Effectuating Digital Asset Sales”: The House passed H.J. Res. 25, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service relating to “Gross Proceeds Reporting by Brokers That Regularly Provide Services Effectuating Digital Asset Sales”, by a yea-and-nay vote of 292 yeas to 132 nays with one answering “present”, Roll No. 71.

Page H1126

H. Res. 211, the rule providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 25) and the bills (H.R. 1156) and (H.R. 1968) was agreed to be a recorded vote of 215 yeas to 214 noes, Roll No. 67, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 216 yeas to 212 nays, Roll No. 66.

Pages H1092–93

Suspensions—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures. Consideration began Monday, March 10th.

DHS Biodefense Improvement Act: H.R. 706, to improve the biodefense functions of the Department of Homeland Security; and

Page H1126

Amending the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enable secure and trustworthy technology through other transaction contracting authority: H.R. 1692, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enable secure and trustworthy technology through other transaction contracting authority.

Page H1127

Committee Elections: The House agreed to H. Res. 213, electing Members to a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives.

Page H1127

Committee Elections: The House agreed to H. Res. 214, electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives.

Page H1127

Work Period Designation: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he designated the period from Tuesday, March 11, 2025, through Sunday, March 23, 2025, as a “district work period” under clause 13 of rule 1.

Page H1130

Quorum Calls Votes: Five yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1092, H1092–93, H1124, H1124–25, H1125–26 and H1126.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Committee Meetings

INNOVATIVE TECHNIQUES IN MILITARY CONSTRUCTION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “Innovative Techniques in Military Construction”. Testimony was heard from Dave Morrow, Director of Military Programs, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Keith Hamilton, Chief Engineer, Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command, U.S. Navy; and public witnesses.

THE STATE OF U.S. SHIPBUILDING

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces held a hearing entitled “The State of U.S. Shipbuilding”. Testimony was heard from Eric Labs, Senior Analyst for Naval Forces and Weapons, Congressional Budget Office; Shelby Oakley, Director, Contracting and National Security Acquisitions, Government Accountability Office; Ronald O’Rourke, Naval Affairs Analyst, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress; and Brett Seidle, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition, U.S. Navy.

EDUCATION WITHOUT LIMITS: EXPLORING THE BENEFITS OF SCHOOL CHOICE

Committee on Education and Workforce: Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education held a hearing entitled “Education Without Limits: Exploring the Benefits of School Choice”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MAXIMIZING OPPORTUNITIES FOR REDEVELOPING BROWNFIELDS SITES: ASSESSING THE POTENTIAL FOR NEW AMERICAN INNOVATION

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Environment held a hearing entitled “Maximizing

Opportunities for Redeveloping Brownfields Sites: Assessing the Potential for New American Innovation”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

NAVIGATING THE DIGITAL PAYMENTS ECOSYSTEM: EXAMINING A FEDERAL FRAMEWORK FOR PAYMENT STABLECOINS AND CONSEQUENCES OF A U.S. CENTRAL BANK DIGITAL CURRENCY

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Navigating the Digital Payments Ecosystem: Examining a Federal Framework for Payment Stablecoins and Consequences of a U.S. Central Bank Digital Currency”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

REAUTHORIZING THE U.S. DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION

Committee on Foreign Affairs: East Asia and Pacific Subcommittee held a hearing entitled “Reauthorizing the U.S. Development Finance Corporation”. Testimony was heard from former Member Ted Yoho; and public witnesses.

ARMS CONTROL, INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, AND U.S. ASSISTANCE TO EUROPE: REVIEW AND REFORMS FOR THE STATE DEPARTMENT

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Europe Subcommittee held a hearing entitled “Arms Control, International Security, and U.S. Assistance to Europe: Review and Reforms for the State Department”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

REGULATORY HARM OR HARMONIZATION? EXAMINING THE OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE THE CYBER REGULATORY REGIME

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection held a hearing entitled “Regulatory Harm or Harmonization? Examining the Opportunity to Improve the Cyber Regulatory Regime”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

ELIMINATING WASTE, FRAUD, AND ABUSE AT THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY: ADDRESSING THE BIDEN-HARRIS ADMINISTRATION'S FAILURES

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Accountability held a hearing entitled “Eliminating Waste, Fraud, and Abuse at the Department of Homeland Security: Addressing the Biden-Harris Administration's Failures”. Testimony was heard from Chris Currie, Director, Homeland Security and Justice Team, Government

Accountability Office; Kristen Bernard, Deputy Inspector General, Office of Audits, Office of the Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security; Erika Lang, Assistant Inspector General, Office of Inspections and Evaluations, Office of the Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on House Administration: Full Committee held a markup on H. Res. 198, providing for the expenses of certain committees of the House of Representatives in the One Hundred Nineteenth Congress; Committee Resolution 119–10, resolution to approve allocation from the Paid House Committee Internship Program to Committees for 2025; Committee Resolution 119–11, resolution to approve Franked Mail Allowances for Committees in the 119th Congress; Resolution dismissing the election contest relating to the office of Representative from the Fourteenth Congressional District of Florida, 1; Resolution dismissing the election contest relating to the office of Representative from the Fourteenth Congressional District of Florida, 2; Resolution dismissing the election contest relating to the office of Representative from the Thirtieth Congressional District of Texas; Resolution dismissing the election contest relating to the office of Representative from the Twenty-eighth Congressional District of Texas; and Resolution dismissing the election contest relating to the office of Representative from the at-large Congressional District of Alaska. H. Res. 198, providing for the expenses of certain committees of the House of Representatives in the One Hundred Nineteenth Congress; Committee Resolution 119–10, resolution to approve allocation from the Paid House Committee Internship Program to Committees for 2025; Committee Resolution 119–11, resolution to approve Franked Mail Allowances for Committees in the 119th Congress; Resolution dismissing the election contest relating to the office of Representative from the Fourteenth Congressional District of Florida, 1; Resolution dismissing the election contest relating to the office of Representative from the Fourteenth Congressional District of Florida, 2; Resolution dismissing the election contest relating to the office of Representative from the Thirtieth Congressional District of Texas; Resolution dismissing the election contest relating to the office of Representative from the Twenty-eighth Congressional District of Texas; and Resolution dismissing the election contest relating to the office of Representative from the at-large Congressional District of Alaska. H. Res. 198 was ordered reported, as amended. Committee Resolution 119–10; Committee Resolution 119–11; Resolution dismissing the election contest relating to

the office of Representative from the Fourteenth Congressional District of Florida, 1; Resolution dismissing the election contest relating to the office of Representative from the Fourteenth Congressional District of Florida, 2; Resolution dismissing the election contest relating to the office of Representative from the Thirtieth Congressional District of Texas; Resolution dismissing the election contest relating to the office of Representative from the Twenty-eighth Congressional District of Texas; and Resolution dismissing the election contest relating to the office of Representative from the at-large Congressional District of Alaska were ordered reported, without amendment.

ANTITRUST LAW AND THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION: EXAMINING THE CURRENT CLIMATE

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Administrative State, Regulatory Reform, and Antitrust held a hearing entitled “Antitrust Law and the NCAA: Examining the Current Climate”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURE

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Federal Lands held a hearing on H.R. 1820, the “FLASH Act”. Testimony was heard from Representative Ciscomani, Thaddeus C. Cleveland, Sheriff, Terrell County, Texas; Larry Lopez, Lieutenant, Sheriff's Department, San Bernardino County, California; and public witnesses.

SHIFTING GEARS: MOVING FROM RECOVERY TO PREVENTION OF IMPROPER PAYMENTS AND FRAUD

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Government Operations held a hearing entitled “Shifting Gears: Moving from Recovery to Prevention of Improper Payments and Fraud”. Testimony was heard from Ken Dieffenbach, Executive Director, Pandemic Response Accountability Committee, Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency; Kristen Kocielek, Managing Director, Financial Management and Assurance, Government Accountability Office; and a public witness.

ENHANCING FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL COORDINATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIMINAL ILLEGAL ALIENS

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Federal Law Enforcement held a hearing entitled “Enhancing Federal, State, and Local Coordination in the Fight Against Criminal Illegal Aliens”. Testimony was heard from Bob Gualtieri,

Sheriff, Pinellas County, Florida; and public witnesses.

MEMBER DAY HEARING: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Member Day Hearing: House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology”. Testimony was heard from Representative Foster.

RESTORING THE SBA: PUTTING MAIN STREET AMERICA FIRST

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Regulations held a hearing entitled “Restoring the SBA: Putting Main Street America First”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING: WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AND INNOVATION ACT AND THE CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment held a hearing entitled “Water Infrastructure Financing: WIFIA and the Clean Water State Revolving Fund”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing on H.R. 913, the “Streamlining Aviation for Eligible Veterans Act of 2025”; H.R. 980, the “Modernizing the Veterans On-Campus Experience Act of 2025”; H.R.1364, the “Automotive Support Services to Improve Safe Transportation Act of 2025”; H.R. 1458, the “Veterans Education and Technical Skills Opportunity Act of 2025”; H.R. 1960, the “Simplifying Veterans Assistance Act of 2025”; H.R. 1527, the “Reforming Education for Veterans Act”; H.R. 1793, the “Veterans Readiness and Employment Transparency Act of 2025”; H.R. 1872, the “Fairness in Veterans' Education Act”; H.R. 1815, the “VA Home Loan Program Reform Act”; H.R. 1814, the “Restoring the VA Home Loan Program in Perpetuity Act of 2025”; H.R. 1957, the “End Veteran Homelessness Act of 2025”; H.R. 1423, the “Guard and Reserve Parity Act of 2025”; legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the conditions under which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs is required to redevelop the individualized vocational rehabilitation plan for a veteran, and for other purposes; and H.R. 1803, the “Fair Access to Co-ops for Veterans Act

of 2025". Testimony was heard from John Bell, Executive Director, Loan Guaranty Service, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on legislation on the Standardizing Treatment and Referral Times Act; legislation on the No Wrong Door for Veterans Act; legislation on the Providing Veterans Essential Medications Act; legislation on the Veterans Supporting Prosthetics Opportunities and Recreational Therapy Act; legislation to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Comptroller General of the United States to report on certain funding shortfalls in the Department of Veterans Affairs; H.R. 217, the "CHIP IN for Veterans Act"; H.R. 1107, the "Protecting Veteran Access to Telemedicine Services Act of 2025"; H.R. 1336, the "Veterans National Traumatic Brain Injury Treatment Act"; H.R. 658, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish qualifications for the appointment of a person as a marriage and family therapist, qualified to provide clinical supervision, in the Veterans Health Administration; legislation on the Copay Fairness for Veterans Act; legislation on the Saving Our Veterans Lives Act; and legislation on the Women Veterans Cancer Care Coordination Act. Testimony was heard from Representatives Bergman, Murphy, Womack, Bacon, Garcia of Texas, Underwood, and Deluzio; Thomas O'Toole, Deputy Assistant Undersecretary for Health for Clinical Services, Quality and Field Operations, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

AFTER THE HOSPITAL: ENSURING ACCESS TO QUALITY POST-ACUTE CARE

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled "After the Hospital: Ensuring Access to Quality Post-Acute Care". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

BUSINESS MEETING

Joint Committee on the Library: Committee designated the Chair and Vice Chair, and adopted its rules of procedure for the 119th Congress.

BUSINESS MEETING

Joint Committee on Printing: Committee designated the Chair and Vice Chair, and adopted its rules of procedure for the 119th Congress.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support, to hold hearings to examine the current readiness of the Joint Force, 9:30 a.m., SD-G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine housing roadblocks, focusing on paving a new way to address affordability, 10 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on the Budget: business meeting to consider the nomination of James Bishop, of North Carolina, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget, 2 p.m., S-120, Capitol.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: business meeting to consider S. 28, to require the disclosure of a camera or recording capability in certain internet-connected devices, S. 97, to require SelectUSA to coordinate with State-level economic development organizations to increase foreign direct investment in semiconductor-related manufacturing and production, S. 244, to direct the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, to conduct a study of the national security risks posed by consumer routers, modems, and devices that combine a modem and router, S. 289, to ban the sale of products with a high concentration of sodium nitrate to individuals, S. 323, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to develop a National Strategy to Synchronize Federal Broadband Programs, S. 389, to establish consumer standards for lithium-ion batteries, S. 414, to require covered digital advertising platforms to report their public service advertisements, S. 428, to promote space situational awareness and space traffic coordination and to modify the functions and leadership of the Office of Space Commerce, S. 433, to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the National Manufacturing Advisory Council within the Department of Commerce, S. 582, to provide for the authorized use of Federal vehicle transportation by certain astronauts, S. 613, to require the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere to maintain the National Mesonet Program, S. 759, to provide for standardization, publication, and accessibility of data relating to public outdoor recreational use of Federal waterways, S. 792, to require the National Telecommunications Information Administration to estimate the value of electromagnetic spectrum assigned or otherwise allocated to Federal entities, S. 841, to require online dating service providers to provide fraud ban notifications to online dating service members, S. 843, to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the Sea Turtle Rescue Assistance Grant Program, and the nominations of Mark Meador, of Virginia, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner, and Michael Kratsios, of South Carolina, to be Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, 9:30 a.m., SR-253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine S. 362, to allow certain Federal minerals to be mined consistent with the Bull Mountains Mining Plan Modification, S. 544, to provide for the location of multiple hardrock mining mill sites, to establish the Abandoned Hardrock Mine Fund, S. 596, to establish a pilot program to support domestic critical material processing, S. 714, to amend the Energy Act of 2020 to include critical materials in the definition of critical mineral, S. 789, to require reports on critical mineral and rare earth element resources around the world and a strategy for the development of advanced mining, refining, separation, and processing technologies, and S. 859, to modify the requirements applicable to locatable minerals on public domain land, 10 a.m., SD-366.

Committee on Foreign Relations: business meeting to consider pending calendar business, 10 a.m., S-116, Capitol.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of William Briggs, of Texas, to be Deputy Administrator, and Casey Mulligan, of Illinois, to be Chief Counsel for Advocacy, both of the Small Business Administration, 2:30 p.m., SR-428A.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: business meeting to consider Major Medical Lease Committee Resolution FY25, Major Medical Lease Committee Resolution PACT Act, and the nomination of Paul Lawrence, of Virginia, to be

Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

Special Committee on Aging: to hold hearings to examine breaking the cycle of senior loneliness, focusing on strengthening family and community support, 3:30 p.m., SD-106.

House

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Africa Subcommittee, hearing entitled "Conflict and Persecution in Nigeria: The Case for a CPC Designation", 9 a.m., 2200 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, Full Committee, markup on H. Res. 127, of inquiry requesting the President and directing the Secretary of the Treasury to transmit, respectively, certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to the Department of Government Efficiency's access to the Treasury payment systems and confidential taxpayer information; and H. Res. 195, of inquiry requesting the President of the United States to furnish certain information to the House of Representatives relating to the operations of the Social Security Administration after January 20, 2025, including information on the Department of Government Efficiency's access to the Social Security Administration and to information in the possession of such Administration, 9:15 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

11 a.m., Wednesday, March 12

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Stephen Miran, of New York, to be Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 12 noon. If cloture is invoked on the nomination, all post-cloture time expire at 2:15 p.m. and Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination.

Following disposition of the nomination of Stephen Miran, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Keith Sonderling, of Florida, to be Deputy Secretary of Labor. If cloture is invoked on the nomination, all post-cloture time expire at 5:15 p.m., and Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Friday, March 14

House Chamber

Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 9 a.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

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