

Can you imagine the medical errors we will have if we have to run an immigration status check every time someone who looks different needs medical care!

This can lead to a dangerous precedent of racial profiling! People may be denied life-saving care simply because of how they look!

From a fiscal perspective—numerous studies have shown us that immigration screenings cost our nation much more in tax dollars than they actually save.

SAVE requirements would become unfunded mandates that add to the administrative cost burden of our States!

In my home State of California—Los Angeles County spent \$28 million in 2008 to implement tougher verification standards on the Medi-Cal program!

I repeat—\$28 million!!

And how many undocumented immigrants did this \$28 million help to catch actually using Medi-Cal benefits? Zero!!!

Is this a cost-effective practice?! Or is this a burden on county governments?!

A mandatory verification requirement in this health bill would only add to the current cost burden of emergency rooms!

We should be working on policies that encourage people to go to clinics, where they can receive proper preventative and routine care.

SAVE electronic verification would push more and more people into the emergency room—where all of us will be left to pick up the tab!

Additional SAVE Program Verification also hinders access for the general public to health care.

This has certainly been the case since states have been required to verify legal status for Medicaid.

According to the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities—anywhere from 3 million to 5 million U.S. citizens have lost Medicaid coverage because they lacked the necessary paperwork (birth certificate or passport) to prove their citizenship.

By introducing mandatory electronic verification procedures—we are creating additional hurdles for Americans to access the care they need!

And what would be the cost in new liability suits?!

And think of our current situation with H1N1. Families need access to care immediately—to stop the spread of further outbreaks!

This would be chaos! It would burden our entire healthcare system with a costly and ineffective unfunded mandate.

From both a humanitarian and a fiscal point of view—we cannot afford mandatory electronic verification.

I am pleased the manager's amendment to this legislation does not include mandatory verification for people looking to access the health care exchange.

I urge my colleagues to remain vigilant on this issue—and work to stop any mandatory electronic verification requirements.

I am also pleased the larger bill includes the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

As a Member of the House Native American Caucus and the Natural Resources Committee—I have been a strong supporter of ending the health disparities that exist on our reservations.

I will close my statement by again stressing the importance of this historic moment!

We passed Social Security in 1935. We passed Medicare in 1965.

I urge my colleagues to stand with the American people and pass legislation in 2009

that will make quality, affordable health care a right for all Americans!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, due to illness, I was unable to be present in the Capitol for votes on Tuesday, November 3, 2009.

However, had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on H.R. 3949, Veterans’ Small Business Assistance and Servicemembers Protection Act of 2009; “yea” on H. Res. 398, Recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift’s success; “yea” on H. Res. 866, Expressing support for designation of a National Veterans History Project Week to encourage public participation in a nationwide project that collects and preserves the stories of the men and women who served our Nation in times of war and conflict; yea on H. Res. 867, Calling on the President and the Secretary of State to oppose unequivocally any endorsement or further consideration of the “Report of the United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict” in multilateral for a; “yea” on H.R. 3157, To name the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Alexandria, Minnesota, as the “Max J. Beilke Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic”; and “yea” on H. Res. 736, To name the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Alexandria, Minnesota, as the “Max J. Beilke Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic.”

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, November 5, 2009 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED
NOVEMBER 6

9:30 a.m.

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine the employment situation for October 2009.

SD-106

NOVEMBER 9

3 p.m.

Environment and Public Works
Water and Wildlife Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 1816, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to improve and reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Program, and S. 1311, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to expand and strengthen cooperative efforts to monitor, restore, and protect the resource productivity, water quality, and marine ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico.

SD-406

NOVEMBER 10

9 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine protocol Amending the Convention between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the French Republic for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital, signed at Paris on August 21, 1994, as Amended by the Protocol signed on December 8, 2004, signed January 13, 2009, at Paris, together with a related Memorandum of Understanding, signed January 13, 2009 (Treaty Doc. 111-04), protocol Amending the Convention between the United States of America and New Zealand for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion With Respect to Taxes on Income, signed on December 1, 2008, at Washington (Treaty Doc. 111-03), convention Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Malta for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income,

signed on August 8, 2008, at Valletta (Treaty Doc. 111-01), treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Rwanda Concerning the Encouragement and Reciprocal Protection of Investment, signed at Kigali on February 19, 2008 (Treaty Doc. 110-23), and international Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on November 3, 2001, and signed by the United States on November 1, 2002 (the "Treaty") (Treaty Doc. 110-19).

SD-419

9:30 a.m.

Budget

To hold hearings to examine bipartisan process proposals for long-term fiscal stability.

SD-608

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Children and Families Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine H1N1 and paid sick days.

SD-430

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine policy options for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

SD-366

Finance

To hold hearings to examine climate change legislation, focusing on considerations for future jobs.

SD-215

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Erroll G. Southers, of California, to be Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security, and Daniel I. Gordon, of the District of Columbia, to be Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy.

SD-342

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Housing, Transportation and Community Development Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine ending veterans' homelessness.

SD-538

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine strengthening our criminal justice system, focusing on extending the Innocence Protection Act.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To receive a briefing on Sudan.

SVC-217

2:15 p.m.

Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider S. 1524, to strengthen the capacity, transparency, and accountability of United States foreign assistance programs to effectively adapt and respond to new challenges of the 21st century, S. 1739, to promote freedom of the press around the world, S. 1067, to support stabilization and lasting peace in northern Uganda and areas affected by the Lord's Resistance Army through development of a regional strategy to support multilateral efforts to successfully protect civilians and eliminate the threat posed by the Lord's Resistance Army and to authorize funds for humanitarian relief and reconstruction, reconciliation, and transitional

justice, H. Con. Res. 36, calling on the President and the allies of the United States to raise in all appropriate bilateral and multilateral for a the case of Robert Levinson at every opportunity, urging Iran to fulfill their promises of assistance to the family of Robert Levinson, and calling on Iran to share the results of its investigation into the disappearance of Robert Levinson with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Hague Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance, adopted at The Hague on November 23, 2007, and signed by the United States on that same date (Treaty Doc. 110-21), the nominations of Jose W. Fernandez, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary for Economic, Energy, and Business Affairs, William E. Kennard, of the District of Columbia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the European Union, with the rank and status of Ambassador, John F. Tefft, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to Ukraine, Michael C. Polt, of Tennessee, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Estonia, and Cynthia Stroum, of Washington, to be Ambassador to Luxembourg, all of the Department of State, and James LaGarde Hudson, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and routine lists in the Foreign Service.

S-116, Capitol

3 p.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine protecting consumers from overdraft fees, focusing on the Fairness and Accountability in Receiving Overdraft Coverage Act.

SD-538

NOVEMBER 17

10:30 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine reauthorization of the United States child nutrition programs, focusing on opportunities to fight hunger and improve child health.

SD-562

2:30 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the United States and the G-20, focusing on re-making the international economic architecture.

SD-419

NOVEMBER 18

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine easing the burdens through employment.

SR-418

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources
Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine managing Federal forests in response to climate change, focusing on natural resource adaptation and carbon sequestration.

SD-366

NOVEMBER 19

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine environmental stewardship policies related to offshore energy production.

SD-366