

not expanding, not because of “uncertainty about the tax code” or “burdensome regulation,” but because they are certain that they don’t have customers.

Failing to extend these critical benefits and cutting off unemployment benefits during the holidays would strip 2 million customers out of the economy by March and over 6 million customers out of the economy by the end of the year.

We could not make a worse decision than to cripple our recovery by failing to protect millions of families and children from poverty, because that is just what unemployment benefits does, it keeps 1 million children from falling into poverty.

Mr. Speaker, our economy is on the way to recovery, but much more must be done.

We may have seen a small drop in the national unemployment last month, but during that same month that saw a .4 percent drop in unemployment nationally, we saw a .4 percent rise in unemployment for African Americans.

There can be no clearer reminder of the ongoing racial and ethnic disparities that continue to plague our Nation and keep minority communities suffering disproportionately higher rates of unemployment, poverty, and tragic health disparities like the unconscionably higher rates of HIV infection.

100 million people—1 in 3 Americans—live in poverty or the zone just above poverty. The budget shortfalls caused by the Bush tax cuts for the wealthy and his two unfunded wars are causing massive lay-offs in States, counties

and cities across the country and those lay-offs are again striking minority communities at disproportionate rates.

Not only must we immediately extend the emergency unemployment benefits, but we should also immediately pass legislation that I, along with my colleague Congressman BOBBY SCOTT introduced, H.R. 589. Our legislation would add an additional 14 weeks of tier I unemployment benefits for the millions of Americans who have already completely exhausted their benefits.

Mr. SCOTT and I have introduced an amendment which would replace the draconian cuts to unemployment benefits contained in the Republican bill with a clean extension of the existing Emergency Unemployment Compensation and H.R. 589 which would give some help to the 99ers who have completely run out of unemployment benefits.

We cannot ignore the needs of the millions of Americans who have run out of time and are now losing their homes, falling out of the middle class, and relying more and more on other forms of government assistance.

We should be taking strong action to implement targeted programs and policies that ensure that we are a Nation that truly does provide equal opportunity and equal access to the American Dream.

This is nothing short of a national emergency and more must be done immediately to put in place programs that directly address the on-going crisis of poverty and unemployment in America by creating millions of new jobs now.

ONLINE CONSENT FOR SHARING
VIDEO SERVICE USE

SPEECH OF

HON. HANSEN CLARKE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, today the House of Representatives is considering H.R. 2471. H.R. 2471 would amend the Video Privacy Protection Act (VPPA), a 1988 law that prohibits video rental stores from disclosing a consumer’s rental history. Currently, the only way such information can be shared is with the consumer’s written consent each time the video tape service provider wants to share their information. H.R. 2471 would allow video tape service providers to obtain a consumer’s consent on an ongoing basis and that consent may be obtained through the Internet. In recent years, the Internet has changed how we share movies and other media. This is why I originally supported the bill. Ultimately, I am voting against H.R. 2471 because the bill could undermine the key provision of the VPPA which is the consumer’s right to give meaningful consent to disclose their personal information. H.R. 2471 transfers control from the consumer to the company in possession of the data and diminishes consumer’s control over their personal information.

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 Tuesday, December 13, 2011 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 14

9:30 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Securities, Insurance and Investment Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine investor risks in capital raising.

SD-538

9:45 a.m.

Finance

Energy, Natural Resources, and Infrastructure Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine alternative energy tax incentives, focusing on the effect of short-term extensions on alternative technology investment, domestic manufacturing, and jobs.

SD-215

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider S. 1449, to authorize the appropriation of funds for highway safety programs and for other purposes, S. 1950, to amend title 49, United States Code, to improve commercial motor vehicle safety and reduce commercial motor vehicle-related accidents and fatalities, to authorize the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, S. 1952, to improve hazardous materials transportation safety and for other purposes, S. 1953, to reauthorize the Research and Innovative Technology Administration, to improve transportation research and development, and a promotion list in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

SR-253

Foreign Relations

European Affairs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the state of human rights and rule of law in Russia, focusing on United States policy options.

SD-419

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider S. 1855, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize various programs under the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act, and the nominations of Wendy M. Spencer, of Florida, to be Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service, Deepa Gupta, of Illinois, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts, Christopher Merrill, of Iowa, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities, Stephanie Orlando, of New York, and Gary Blumenthal, of Massachusetts, both to be a Member of the National Council on Disability, and a nomination list in the Public Health Service.

SD-430

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider an original bill entitled, "Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge Act of 2012", S. 1515, to permit certain members of the United States Secret Service and certain members of the United States Secret Service Uniformed Division who were appointed in 1984, 1985, or 1986 to elect to be covered under the District of Columbia Police and Firefighter Retirement and Disability System in the same manner as members appointed prior to 1984, H.R. 2297, to promote the development of the Southwest waterfront in the District of Columbia, H.R. 789, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 20 Main Street in Little Ferry, New Jersey, as the "Sergeant Matthew J. Fenton Post Office", H.R. 2422, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 45 Bay Street, Suite 2, in Staten Island, New York, as the "Sergeant Angel Mendez Post Office", and the nomination of Roslyn Ann Mazer, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security.

SD-342

Judiciary

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

SD-226

DECEMBER 15

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider S. 1108, to provide local communities with tools to make solar permitting more efficient, S. 1142, to promote the mapping and development of the United States geothermal resources by establishing a direct loan program for high risk geothermal exploration wells, to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to improve geothermal energy technology and demonstrate the use of geothermal energy in large scale thermal applications, S. 1149, to expand geothermal production, S. 1160, to improve the administration of the Department of Energy, and the nomination of Arunava Majumdar, of California, to be Under Secretary of Energy.

SD-366

10 a.m.

Environment and Public Works

Clean Air and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee

To hold joint hearings to examine the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) near-term task force recommendations for enhancing reactor safety in the 21st century.

SD-406

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine prescription drug shortages, focusing on examining a public health concern and potential solutions.

SD-106

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 1821, to prevent the termination of the temporary office of bankruptcy judges in certain judicial districts, S. 1236, to reduce the trafficking of drugs and to prevent human smuggling across the Southwest Border by deterring the construction and use of border tunnels, and the nomination of Brian C. Wimes, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern and Western Districts of Missouri.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine certain nominations.

SR-328A

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine environmental risks of genetically engineered fish.

SR-253

11 a.m.

Foreign Relations

Western Hemisphere, Peace Corps and Global Narcotics Affairs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the United States-Caribbean shared security partnership, focusing on responding to the growth of trafficking narcotics in the Caribbean.

SD-419

2:15 p.m.

Foreign Relations

African Affairs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine improving governance in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

SD-419

2:30 p.m.

Aging

To hold hearings to examine implementing the "Physician Payment Sunshine Act".

SD-562

POSTPONEMENTS

DECEMBER 14

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Margaret Bartley, of Maryland, Coral Wong Pietsch, of Hawaii, and Gloria Wilson Shelton, of Maryland, all to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

SR-418