

Protecting Access to Medicare Act—Agreement:

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that following Leader remarks on Monday, March 31, 2014, Senate begin consideration of H.R. 4302, to amend the Social Security Act to extend Medicare payments to physicians and other provisions of the Medicare and Medicaid programs, which was received from the House of Representatives and is at the desk; that there be no amendments, or motions in order to the bill with the exception of budget points of order and the applicable motions to waive; that the time until 5 p.m., be equally divided between the two Leaders, or their designees, for debate on the bill; that notwithstanding the previous order, following the vote on confirmation of the nomination of John B. Owens, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, on Monday, March 31, 2014, Senate vote on passage of the bill; that the bill be subject to a 60 affirmative vote threshold; and that upon disposition of the bill, Senate vote on the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, as provided under the previous order.

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Owens Nomination—Cloture: Senate continued consideration of the nomination of John B. Owens, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

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

By 54 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. 89), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

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A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at 5 p.m. on Monday, March 31, 2014, Senate resume consideration of the nomination, all post-cloture time be considered expired at 5:30 p.m., and Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination.

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Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Maria Contreras-Sweet, of California, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

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Matthew H. Tueller, of Utah, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Yemen.

Pages S1800, S1837

Kathryn B. Thomson, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of Transportation.

Pages S1834, S1837

Messages from the House:

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Measures Referred:

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Privileges of the Floor: **Page S1834**

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—90) **Pages S1791–92, S1799–S1800**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 6:19 p.m., until 2 p.m. on Monday, March 31, 2014. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on Page S1835.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2015 for the Federal Communications Commission, after receiving testimony from Tom Wheeler, Chairman, and Ajit Pai, Commissioner, both of the Federal Communications Commission.

APPROPRIATIONS: FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies concluded open and closed hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, after receiving testimony from James B. Comey, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the posture of the Department of the Navy in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Ray Mabus, Secretary, Admiral Jonathan Greenert, Chief

of Naval Operations, and General James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps, all of the Department of the Navy, Department of Defense.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Rhea Sun Suh, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, and Janice Marion Schneider, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, both of the Department of the Interior.

Also, committee announced the following subcommittee assignments:

Subcommittee on Energy: Senators Franken (Chair), Wyden, Johnson (SD), Cantwell, Sanders, Stabenow, Udall (CO), Manchin, Heinrich, Baldwin, Risch, Heller, Flake, Alexander, Portman, and Hoeven.

Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining: Senators Manchin (Chair), Wyden, Johnson (SD), Cantwell, Udall (CO), Franken, Schatz, Heinrich, Baldwin, Barrasso, Risch, Lee, Heller, Flake, Scott, Alexander, and Hoeven.

Subcommittee on National Parks: Senators Udall (CO) (Chair), Wyden, Sanders, Stabenow, Schatz, Heinrich, Baldwin, Portman, Barrasso, Lee, Alexander, and Hoeven.

Subcommittee on Water and Power: Senators Schatz (Chair), Johnson (SD), Cantwell, Sanders, Stabenow, Manchin, Franken, Lee, Barrasso, Risch, Heller, Flake, and Scott.

Senators Landrieu and Murkowski are ex officio members of each subcommittee.

MAP-21 REAUTHORIZATION

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine MAP-21 reauthorization, focusing on state and local perspectives on transportation priorities and funding, after receiving testimony from Michael P. Lewis, Rhode Island Department of Transportation Director, Providence; Sue Minter, Vermont Agency of Transportation Deputy Secretary, Montpelier; Mayor Gregory A. Ballard, Indianapolis, Indiana; Mayor Mick Cornett, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Bill Fontenot, St. Landry Parish President, Opelousas, Louisiana; James H. Willox, Converse County Board of County Commissioners Chairman, Douglas, Wyoming, on behalf of the Wyoming County Commissioners Association Committee on Transportation; and Dave Gula, Wilmington Area Planning Council, Newark, Delaware.

POWER AFRICA INITIATIVE

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on African Affairs concluded a hearing to examine powering Africa's future, focusing on the Power Africa Initia-

tive, after receiving testimony from Earl Gast, Assistant Administrator for Africa, United States Agency for International Development; Mimi Alemayehou, Executive Vice President, Overseas Private Investment Corporation; Rick Angiuoni, Director of Africa, Export-Import Bank of the United States; Paul Hinks, Symbion Power LLC, Del Renigar, General Electric, and Thomas H. Hart, The ONE Campaign, all of Washington, D.C.; and Tony O. Elumelu, Heirs Holdings, Lagos, Nigeria.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Sherry Moore Trafford, and Steven M. Wellner, both to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, after the nominees, who were both introduced by Representative Norton, testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

FEDERAL STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine strengthening the Federal Student Loan Program for borrowers, after receiving testimony from James W. Runcie, Chief Operating Officer, Federal Student Aid, Department of Education; Michelle Asha Cooper, Institute for Higher Education Policy, Washington, D.C.; Deanne Loonin, National Consumer Law Center Student Loan Borrower Assistance Project, Boston, Massachusetts; Roberta L. Johnson, Iowa State University, Ames; and Marian Malone Dill, Lee University, Cleveland, Tennessee.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Gregg Jeffrey Costa, of Texas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, Tanya S. Chutkan, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, M. Hannah Lauck, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, Leo T. Sorokin, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, and John Charles Cruden, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR THOSE WHO SERVE

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Oversight, Federal Rights and Agency Action concluded a hearing to examine access to justice for those who serve, after receiving testimony from Colonel Paul E. Kantwill, Director, Office of Legal Policy, Office of the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Judge Advocate General's Corps, United States

Army, and Dwain Alexander, II, Senior Civilian Attorney, Region Legal Service Office, Mid-Atlantic, and Lieutenant Kenneth Savage, United States Navy Reserve, both of the Department of the Navy, all of the Department of Defense; John S. Odom, Jr., Jones and Odom, L.L.P., Shreveport, Louisiana; and Major General Andrew Davis, USMC (Ret.), Reserve Officers Association, and Ian De Planque, Legislative

Commission of the American Legion, both of Washington, D.C.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 32 public bills, H.R. 4315–4346; and 5 resolutions, H.J. Res. 113 and H. Res. 526–529 were introduced.

Pages H2743–45

Additional Cosponsors:

Page H2746

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Woodall to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H2699

Recess: The House recessed at 9:20 a.m. and reconvened at 9:42 a.m.

Page H2700

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014: H.R. 4302, to amend the Social Security Act to extend Medicare payments to physicians and other provisions of the Medicare and Medicaid programs and

Pages H2700–18, H2730

Ukraine Support Act: H.R. 4278, amended, to support the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Ukraine, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 399 yeas to 19 nays, Roll No. 148.

Pages H2718–30, H2730–31

Recess: The House recessed at 11:24 a.m. and reconvened at 11:31 a.m.

Page H2730

Recess: The House recessed at 11:32 a.m. and reconvened at 12:07 p.m.

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Meeting Hour: Agreed that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 11 a.m. tomorrow, March 28th; and when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet on Tuesday, April 1st when it shall convene at 12 noon for Morning Hour Debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

Page H2733

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H2736.

Senate Referral: S. 1827 was held at the desk.

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote developed during the proceedings of today and appears on pages H2730–31. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Committee Meetings

APPROPRIATIONS—FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION FY 2015 BUDGET

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies held a hearing on Food and Drug Administration FY 2015 Budget. Testimony was heard from Margaret Hamburg, Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services; Norris W. Cochran, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services; and William Tootle, Director of the Office of Budget, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services.

APPROPRIATIONS—NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION FY 2015 BUDGET

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies held a hearing on the National Science Foundation FY 2015 Budget. Testimony was heard from Cora Marrett, Acting Director, National Science Foundation.

APPROPRIATIONS—ARMY FY 2015 BUDGET

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held a hearing on United States Army FY 2015 Budget. Testimony was heard from John M. McHugh, Secretary, United States Army; and General Raymond T. Odierno, Chief of Staff, United States Army.