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# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 114th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

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# House of Representatives

The House met at 1 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS).

## DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
*February 9, 2015.*

I hereby appoint the Honorable ANDY HARRIS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

## PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

In this Chamber, where the people's House gathers, we pause to offer You gratitude for the gift of this good land on which we live, for this great Nation which You have inspired in developing over so many years. Continue to inspire the American people that through the difficulties of these days we might keep liberty and justice alive in our Nation and in the world.

Give to us and all people a vivid sense of Your presence, that we may learn to understand each other, to respect each other, to work with each other, to live with each other, and to do good to each other. So shall we make our Nation great in goodness, and good in its greatness.

On this day we also ask Your blessing of peace and consolation upon the family of Representative ALAN NUNNELEE of the First District of Mississippi, who is being laid to rest this day. Bless as well the Members of this House, his staff, and all who mourn him. May he rest in peace.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

## THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

## COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
*Washington, DC, February 3, 2015.*

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
*The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 3, 2015 at 11:07 a.m.:

Appointment:
National Council on Disability.
With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

## APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE 2012 TERRORIST ATTACK IN BENGHAZI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 4(a) of House Resolution 5, 114th Congress, and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, of the following Members to the Select Committee on the Events Surrounding the 2012 Terrorist Attack in Benghazi:

Mr. CUMMINGS, Maryland
Mr. SMITH, Washington
Mr. SCHIFF, California
Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ, California
Ms. DUCKWORTH, Illinois

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the passing of the gentleman from the State of Mississippi, Mr. NUNNELEE, the whole number of the House is 433.

## PUBLICATION OF COMMITTEE RULES

RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION FOR THE 114TH CONGRESS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION,
*Washington, DC, February 6, 2015.*

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
*Speaker of the House,*
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: Pursuant to clause 2(a)(2) of House Rule XI, I hereby submit the Rules of the Committee on House Administration for publication in the Congressional Record. The Rules were adopted by the Committee in its organizational meeting.

Sincerely,

CANDICE S. MILLER,
*Chairman.*

☐ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., ☐ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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RULE NO. 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

(a) The Rules of the House are the rules of the Committee so far as applicable, except that a motion to recess from day to day is a privileged motion in the Committee.

(b) The Committee is authorized at any time to conduct such investigations and studies as it may consider necessary or appropriate in the exercise of its responsibilities under House Rule X and, subject to the adoption of expense resolutions as required by House Rule X, clause 6, to incur expenses (including travel expenses) in connection therewith.

(c) The Committee is authorized to have printed and bound testimony and other data presented at hearings held by the Committee, and to make such information available to the public. All costs of stenographic services and transcripts in connection with any meeting or hearing of the Committee shall be paid from the appropriate House account.

(d) The Committee shall submit to the House, not later than January 2 of each odd-numbered year, a report on the activities of the committee under House Rules X and XI.

(e) The Committee's rules shall be made publicly available in electronic form and published in the Congressional Record not later than 30 days after the Committee is elected in each odd-numbered year.

RULE NO. 2

REGULAR AND SPECIAL MEETINGS

(a) The regular meeting date of the Committee on House Administration shall be the second Wednesday of every month when the House is in session in accordance with Clause 2(b) of House Rule XI. If the House is not in session on the second Wednesday of a month, the regular meeting date shall be the third Wednesday of that month. Additional meetings may be called by the Chair of the Committee as she or he may deem necessary or at the request of a majority of the members of the Committee in accordance with Clause 2(c) of House Rule XI. The determination of the business to be considered at each meeting shall be made by the Chair subject to Clause 2(c) of House Rule XI. A regularly scheduled meeting may be dispensed with if, in the judgment of the Chair, there is no need for the meeting.

(b) If the Chair is not present at any meeting of the Committee, the ranking member of the majority party who is present shall preside at the meeting.

(c) The Chair, in the case of meetings to be conducted by the Committee shall make public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of any meeting to be conducted on any measure or matter. Such meeting shall not commence earlier than the third day on which members have notice thereof. If the Chair, with the concurrence of the ranking minority member, determines that there is good cause to begin the meeting sooner, or if the Committee so determines by majority vote, a quorum being present, the Chair shall make the announcement at the earliest possible date. The announcement shall promptly be made publicly available in electronic form and published in the Daily Digest.

(d) The Chair, in the case of meetings to be conducted by the Committee shall make available on the Committee's web site the text of any legislation to be marked up at a meeting at least 24 hours before such meeting (or at the time of an announcement made within 24 hours of such meeting). This requirement shall also apply to any resolution or regulation to be considered at a meeting.

RULE NO. 3

OPEN MEETINGS

As required by Clause 2(g), of House Rule XI, each meeting for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation of the Committee shall be open to the public except when the Committee in open session and with a quorum present determines by record vote that all or part of the remainder of the meeting on that day shall be closed to the public because disclosure of matters to be considered would endanger national security, would compromise sensitive law enforcement information, or would tend to defame, degrade or incriminate any person, or otherwise would violate any law or rule of the House. Provided, however, that no person other than members of the Committee, and such congressional staff and such other persons as the Committee may authorize, shall be present in any business or markup session which has been closed to the public. To the maximum extent practicable, the Chair shall cause to be provided audio and video coverage of each hearing or meeting that allows the public to easily listen to and view the proceedings and maintain the recordings of such coverage in a manner that is easily accessible to the public.

RULE NO. 4

RECORDS AND ROLLCALLS

(a)(1) A record vote shall be held if requested by any member of the Committee.

(2) The result of each record vote in any meeting of the Committee shall be made available for inspection by the public at reasonable times at the Committee offices, including a description of the amendment, motion, order or other proposition; the name of each member voting for and against; and the members present but not voting.

(3) The Chairman shall make the record of the votes on any question on which a record vote is demanded available on the Committee's website not later than 48 hours after such vote is taken (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays). Such record shall include a description of the amendment, motion, order, or other proposition, the name of each member voting for and each member voting against such amendment, motion, order, or proposition, and the names of those members of the Committee present but not voting.

(4) The Chairman shall make available on the Committee's website not later than 24 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) after the adoption of any amendment to a measure or matter the text of such amendment. (b)(1) Subject to subparagraph (2), the Chairman may postpone further proceedings when a record vote is ordered on the question of approving any measure or matter or adopting an amendment. The Chair may resume proceedings on a postponed request at any time.

(2) In exercising postponement authority under subparagraph (1), the Chairman shall take all reasonable steps necessary to notify members on the resumption of proceedings on any postponed record vote.

(3) When proceedings resume on a postponed question, notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, an underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.

(c) All Committee hearings, records, data, charts, and files shall be kept separate and distinct from the congressional office records of the member serving as Chair; and such records shall be the property of the House and all members of the House shall have access thereto.

(d) House records of the Committee which are at the National Archives shall be made available pursuant to House Rule VII. The Chairman shall notify the ranking minority member of any decision to withhold a record pursuant to the rule, and shall present the matter to the Committee upon written request of any Committee member.

(e) To the maximum extent feasible, the Committee shall make its publications available in electronic form.

RULE NO. 5

PROXIES

No vote by any member in the Committee may be cast by proxy.

RULE NO. 6

POWER TO SIT AND ACT; SUBPOENA POWER

(a) For the purpose of carrying out any of its functions and duties under House Rules X and XI, the Committee is authorized (subject to subparagraph (b)(1) of this paragraph)—

(1) to sit and act at such times and places within the United States, whether the House is in session, has recessed, or has adjourned, and to hold such hearings; and

(2) to require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memorandums, papers, documents and other materials as it deems necessary, including materials in electronic form. The Chair, or any member designated by the Chair, may administer oaths to any witness.

(b)(1) A subpoena may be authorized and issued by the Committee in the conduct of any investigation or series of investigations or activities, only when authorized by a majority of the members voting, a majority being present. The power to authorize and issue subpoenas under subparagraph (a)(2) may be delegated to the Chair pursuant to such rules and under such limitations as the Committee may prescribe. Authorized subpoenas shall be signed by the Chair or by any member designated by the Committee, and may be served by any person designated by the Chair or such member.

(2) Compliance with any subpoena issued by the Committee may be enforced only as authorized or directed by the House.

RULE NO. 7

QUORUMS

No measure or recommendation shall be reported to the House unless a majority of the Committee is actually present. For the purposes of taking any action other than reporting any measure, issuance of a subpoena, closing meetings, promulgating Committee orders, or changing the rules of the Committee, one-third of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum. For purposes of taking testimony and receiving evidence, two members shall constitute a quorum.

RULE NO. 8

AMENDMENTS

Any amendment offered to any pending legislation before the Committee must be made available in written form when requested by any member of the Committee. If such amendment is not available in written form when requested, the Chair will allow an appropriate period of time for the provision thereof.

RULE NO. 9

HEARING PROCEDURES

(a) The Chair, in the case of hearings to be conducted by the Committee shall make public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of any hearing to be conducted on any measure or matter at least one (1) week before the commencement of that hearing. If the Chair, with the concurrence of the ranking minority member, determines that there is good cause to begin the hearing sooner, or if the Committee so determines by majority vote, a quorum being present, the Chair shall make the announcement at the earliest possible date. The clerk of the Committee shall promptly notify the Daily Digest Clerk of the Congressional

Record as soon as possible after such public announcement is made.

(b) Unless excused by the Chair, each witness who is to appear before the Committee shall file with the clerk of the Committee, at least 48 hours in advance of his or her appearance, a written statement of his or her proposed testimony and shall limit his or her oral presentation to a summary of his or her statement.

(c) When any hearing is conducted by the Committee upon any measure or matter, the minority party members on the Committee shall be entitled, upon request to the Chair by a majority of those minority members before the completion of such hearing, to call witnesses selected by the minority to testify with respect to that measure or matter during at least one day of hearings thereon.

(d) Reserved.

(e) Committee members may question witnesses only when they have been recognized by the Chair for that purpose, and only for a 5–minute period until all members present have had an opportunity to question a witness. The 5–minute period for questioning a witness by any one member can be extended as provided by House Rules. The questioning of a witness in Committee hearings shall be initiated by the Chair, followed by the ranking minority member and all other members alternating between the majority and minority. In recognizing members to question witnesses in this fashion, the Chair shall take into consideration the ratio of the majority to minority members present and shall establish the order of recognition for questioning in such a manner as not to disadvantage the members of the majority. The Chair may accomplish this by recognizing two majority members for each minority member recognized.

(f) The following additional rules shall apply to hearings of the Committee as applicable:

(1) The Chair at a hearing shall announce in an opening statement the subject of the investigation.

(2) A copy of the Committee rules and this clause shall be made available to each witness as provided by clause 2(k)(2) of Rule XI.

(3) Witnesses at hearings may be accompanied by their own counsel for the purpose of advising them concerning their constitutional rights.

(4) The Chair may punish breaches of order and decorum, and of professional ethics on the part of counsel, by censure and exclusion from the hearings; and the Committee may cite the offender to the House for contempt.

(5) If the Committee determines that evidence or testimony at a hearing may tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person, it shall—

(A) afford such person an opportunity voluntarily to appear as a witness;

(B) receive such evidence or testimony in executive session; and

(C) receive and dispose of requests from such person to subpoena additional witnesses.

(6) Except as provided in subparagraph (f)(5), the Chair shall receive and the Committee shall dispose of requests to subpoena additional witnesses.

(7) No evidence or testimony taken in executive session may be released or used in public sessions without the consent of the Committee.

(8) In the discretion of the Committee, witnesses may submit brief and pertinent sworn statements in writing for inclusion in the record. The Committee is the sole judge of the pertinence of testimony and evidence adduced at its hearing.

(9) A witness may obtain a transcript copy of his testimony given at a public session or, if given at an executive session, when authorized by the Committee.

RULE NO. 10

PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING MEASURES OR MATTERS

(a)(1) It shall be the duty of the Chair to report or cause to be reported promptly to the House any measure approved by the Committee and to take or cause to be taken necessary steps to bring the matter to a vote.

(2) In any event, the report of the Committee on a measure which has been approved by the Committee shall be filed within 7 calendar days (exclusive of days on which the House is not in session) after the day on which there has been filed with the clerk of the Committee a written request, signed by a majority of the members of the Committee, for the reporting of that measure. Upon the filing of any such request, the clerk of the Committee shall transmit immediately to the Chair notice of the filing of that request.

(b)(1) No measure or recommendation shall be reported to the House unless a majority of the Committee is actually present.

(2) With respect to each record vote on a motion to report any measure or matter of a public character, and on any amendment offered to the measure or matter, the total number of votes cast for and against, and the names of those members voting for and against, shall be included in the Committee report on the measure or matter.

(c) The report of the Committee on a measure or matter which has been approved by the Committee shall include the matters required by Clause 3(c) of Rule XIII of the Rules of the House.

(d) If, at the time any measure or matter is ordered reported by the Committee, any member of the Committee gives notice of intention to file supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views, that member shall be entitled to not less than two additional calendar days after the day of such notice, commencing on the day on which the measure or matter(s) was approved, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, in which to file such views, in writing and signed by that member, with the clerk of the Committee. All such views so filed by one or more members of the Committee shall be included within, and shall be a part of, the report filed by the Committee with respect to that measure or matter. The report of the Committee upon that measure or matter shall be printed in a single volume which—

(1) shall include all supplemental, minority, additional or dissenting views, in the form submitted, by the time of the filing of the report, and

(2) shall bear upon its cover a recital that any such supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views (and any material submitted under subparagraph (c)) are included as part of the report. This subparagraph does not preclude—

(A) the immediate filing or printing of a Committee report unless timely request for the opportunity to file supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views has been made as provided by paragraph (c); or

(B) the filing of any supplemental report upon any measure or matter which may be required for the correction of any technical error in a previous report made by the Committee upon that measure or matter.

(3) shall, when appropriate, contain the documents required by Clause 3(e) of Rule XIII of the Rules of the House.

(e) The Chair, following consultation with the ranking minority member, is directed to offer a motion under clause 1 of Rule XXII of the Rules of the House, relating to going to conference with the Senate, whenever the Chair considers it appropriate.

(f) If hearings have been held on any such measure or matter so reported, the Committee shall make every reasonable effort to have such hearings published and available to the members of the House prior to the consideration of such measure or matter in the House.

(g) The Chair may designate any majority member of the Committee to act as ''floor manager'' of a bill or resolution during its consideration in the House.

RULE NO. 11

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT

The Committee shall conduct oversight of matters within the jurisdiction of the Committee in accordance with House Rule X, clause 2 and clause 4. Not later than February 15 of the first session of a Congress, the Committee shall, in a meeting that is open to the public and with a quorum present, adopt its oversight plan for that Congress in accordance with House Rule X, clause 2(d).

RULE NO. 12

REVIEW OF CONTINUING PROGRAMS; BUDGET ACT PROVISIONS

(a) The Committee shall, in its consideration of all bills and joint resolutions of a public character within its jurisdiction, ensure that appropriation for continuing programs and activities of the Federal Government will be made annually to the maximum extent feasible and consistent with the nature, requirement, and objectives of the programs and activities involved. For the purposes of this paragraph a Government agency includes the organizational units of government listed in Clause 4(e) of Rule X of House Rules.

(b) The Committee shall review, from time to time, each continuing program within its jurisdiction for which appropriations are not made annually in order to ascertain whether such program could be modified so that appropriations therefore would be made annually.

(c) The Committee shall, on or before February 25 of each year, submit to the Committee on the Budget (1) its views and estimates with respect to all matters to be set forth in the concurrent resolution on the budget for the ensuing fiscal year which are within its jurisdiction or functions, and (2) an estimate of the total amounts of new budget authority, and budget outlays resulting there from, to be provided or authorized in all bills and resolutions within its jurisdiction which it intends to be effective during that fiscal year.

(d) As soon as practicable after a concurrent resolution on the budget for any fiscal year is agreed to, the Committee (after consulting with the appropriate committee or committees of the Senate) shall subdivide any allocation made to it in the joint explanatory statement accompanying the conference report on such resolution, and promptly report such subdivisions to the House, in the manner provided by section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

(e) Whenever the Committee is directed in a concurrent resolution on the budget to determine and recommend changes in laws, bills, or resolutions under the reconciliation process it shall promptly make such determination and recommendations, and report a reconciliation bill or resolution (or both) to the House or submit such recommendations to the Committee on the Budget, in accordance with the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

RULE NO. 13

BROADCASTING OF COMMITTEE HEARINGS AND MEETINGS

Whenever any hearing or meeting conducted by the Committee is open to the public, those proceedings shall be open to coverage by television, radio, and still photography, as provided in Clause 4 of House Rule

XI, subject to the limitations therein. Operation and use of any Committee Internet broadcast system shall be fair and nonpartisan and in accordance with Clause 4(b) of rule XI and all other applicable rules of the Committee and the House.

RULE NO. 14

COMMITTEE STAFF

The staff of the Committee on House Administration shall be appointed as follows:

(a) The staff shall be appointed by the Chair except as provided in paragraph (b), and may be removed by the Chair, and shall work under the general supervision and direction of the Chair;

(b) All staff provided to the minority party members of the Committee shall be appointed by the ranking minority member, and may be removed by the ranking minority member of the Committee, and shall work under the general supervision and direction of such member;

(c) The appointment of all professional staff shall be subject to the approval of the Committee as provided by, and subject to the provisions of, clause 9 of Rule X of the Rules of the House;

(d) The Chair shall fix the compensation of all staff of the Committee, after consultation with the ranking minority member regarding any minority party staff, within the budget approved for such purposes for the Committee.

RULE NO. 15

TRAVEL OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

(a) Consistent with the primary expense resolution and such additional expense resolutions as may have been approved, the provisions of this rule shall govern travel of Committee members and staff. Travel for any member or any staff member shall be paid only upon the prior authorization of the Chair or her or his designee. Travel may be authorized by the Chair for any member and any staff member in connection with the attendance at hearings conducted by the Committee and meetings, conferences, and investigations which involve activities or subject matter under the general jurisdiction of the Committee. Before such authorization is given there shall be submitted to the Chair in writing the following:

(1) The purpose of the travel;

(2) The dates during which the travel will occur;

(3) The locations to be visited and the length of time to be spent in each; and

(4) The names of members and staff seeking authorization.

(b)(1) In the case of travel outside the United States of members and staff of the Committee for the purpose of conducting hearings, investigations, studies, or attending meetings and conferences involving activities or subject matter under the legislative assignment of the committee, prior authorization must be obtained from the Chair. Before such authorization is given, there shall be submitted to the Chair, in writing, a request for such authorization. Each request, which shall be filed in a manner that allows for a reasonable period of time for review before such travel is scheduled to begin, shall include the following:

(A) the purpose of the travel;

(B) the dates during which the travel will occur;

(C) the names of the countries to be visited and the length of time to be spent in each;

(D) an agenda of anticipated activities for each country for which travel is authorized together with a description of the purpose to be served and the areas of committee jurisdiction involved; and

(E) the names of members and staff for whom authorization is sought.

(2) At the conclusion of any hearing, investigation, study, meeting or conference for which travel outside the United States has been authorized pursuant to this rule, members and staff attending meetings or conferences shall submit a written report to the Chair covering the activities and other pertinent observations or information gained as a result of such travel.

(c) Members and staff of the Committee performing authorized travel on official business shall be governed by applicable laws, resolutions, or regulations of the House and of the Committee on House Administration pertaining to such travel.

RULE NO. 16

Reserved.

RULE NO. 17

Reserved.

RULE NO. 18

OTHER PROCEDURES AND REGULATIONS

The Chair may establish such other procedures and take such actions as may be necessary to carry out the foregoing rules or to facilitate the effective operation of the committee.

RULE NO. 19

DESIGNATION OF CLERK OF THE COMMITTEE

For the purposes of these rules and the Rules of the House of Representatives, the staff director of the Committee shall act as the clerk of the Committee.

## PUBLICATION OF COMMITTEE RULES

RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM FOR THE 114TH CONGRESS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM,

*Washington, DC, February 5, 2015.*

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to clause 2(a)(2) of House Rule XI, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform adopted its rules for the 114th Congress on January 27, 2015, and I submit them now for publication in the Congressional Record.

Sincerely,

JASON CHAFFETZ,
*Chairman.*

RULE 1—APPLICATION OF RULES

Except where the terms ''full committee'' and ''subcommittee'' are specifically referred to, the following rules shall apply to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and its subcommittees as well as to the respective chairs and ranking minority members.

RULE 2—MEETINGS

The regular meetings of the full committee shall be held on the second Thursday of each month at 10 a.m., when the House is in session. The chairman is authorized to dispense with a regular meeting or to change the date thereof, and to call and convene additional meetings, when circumstances warrant. A special meeting of the committee may be requested by members of the committee pursuant to the provisions of House Rule XI, clause 2(c)(2). Subcommittees shall meet at the call of the subcommittee chairs. Every member of the committee, unless prevented by unusual circumstances, shall be provided with a memorandum at least three calendar days before each meeting or hearing explaining: (1) the purpose of the meeting or hearing; and (2) the names, titles, background and reasons for appearance of any witnesses. The ranking minority member shall be responsible for providing the same information on witnesses whom the minority may request.

RULE 3—QUORUMS

(a) A majority of the members of the committee shall form a quorum, except that two members shall constitute a quorum for taking testimony and receiving evidence, and one third of the members shall form a quorum for taking any action other than for which the presence of a majority of the committee is otherwise required. If the chairman is not present at any meeting of the committee or subcommittee, the ranking member of the majority party on the committee who is present shall preside at that meeting.

(b) The chairman of the full committee may, at the request of a subcommittee chair, make a temporary assignment of any member of the full committee to such subcommittee for the purpose of constituting a quorum at and participating in any public hearing by such subcommittee to be held outside of Washington, DC. Members appointed to such temporary positions shall not be voting members. The chairman shall give reasonable notice of such temporary assignment to the ranking minority members of the committee.

RULE 4—COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) Bills and resolutions approved by the full committee shall be reported by the chairman pursuant to House Rule XIII, clauses 2–4.

(b) A proposed investigative or oversight report shall not be considered in the committee unless the proposed report has been available to the members of the committee for at least three calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, unless the House is in session on such days) before consideration of such proposed report in the committee. If hearings have been held on the matter reported upon, every reasonable effort shall be made to have such hearings printed and available to the members of the committee before the consideration of the proposed report in the committee.

(c) Every investigative or oversight report shall be approved by a majority vote of the committee at a meeting at which a quorum is present. If at the time of approval of such a report a member of the committee gives notice of intent to file supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views that member shall be entitled to file such views following House Rule XI, clause 2(1) and Rule XIII, clause 3(a)(1).

(d) Only those investigative or oversight reports approved by a majority vote of the committee may be ordered printed, unless otherwise required by the Rules of the House of Representatives.

RULE 5—RECORD VOTES

(a) A record vote of the members may be had upon the request of any member upon approval of a one-fifth vote of the members present.

(b) Pursuant to House Rule XI, clause 2 (h)(4), the chairman is authorized to postpone further proceedings when a record vote is ordered on the question of approving a measure or matter or on adopting an amendment and to resume proceedings on a postponed question at any time after reasonable notice. When proceedings resume on a postponed question, notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, an underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed. After consultation with the ranking minority member, the chairman shall take reasonable steps to notify members on the resumption of proceedings on any postponed record vote.

RULE 6—SUBCOMMITTEES; REFERRALS

(a) There shall be six standing subcommittees with appropriate party ratios. The chairman shall assign members to the subcommittees. Minority party assignments shall be made only with the concurrence of the ranking minority member. The subcommittees shall have the following fixed jurisdictions:

(1) The Subcommittee on Government Operations—Legislative and oversight jurisdiction over government management and accounting measures; the economy, efficiency, and management of government operations and activities; procurement; federal property; public information, including the Freedom of Information Act and Federal Advisory Committee Act; federal records (including the National Archives and Records Administration and the Presidential Records Act); federal civil service; the U.S. Postal Service; the Census Bureau; and the District of Columbia. The Subcommittee also has legislative jurisdiction over drug policy and the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.

(2) The Subcommittee on National Security—Oversight jurisdiction over national security, homeland security, foreign operations, immigration, defense, and criminal justice.

(3) The Subcommittee on Healthcare, Benefits, and Administrative Rules—Oversight jurisdiction over health care policy, administration, and programs; regulatory affairs; government-wide rules and regulations; Social Security; and the administration and solvency of benefit and entitlement programs.

(4) The Subcommittee on the Interior—Oversight jurisdiction over food and drug safety, energy policy, public lands, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of the Interior.

(5) The Subcommittee on Information Technology—Oversight jurisdiction over information security management, cybersecurity, information technology policy and procurement, emerging technologies, intellectual property, telecommunications, and privacy.

(6) The Subcommittee on Transportation and Public Assets—Oversight jurisdiction over federal real property, the General Services Administration, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Transportation Security Administration, and the Department of Transportation.

(b) Bills, resolutions, and other matters shall be expeditiously referred by the chairman to subcommittees for consideration or investigation in accordance with their fixed jurisdictions. Where the subject matter of the referral involves the jurisdiction of more than one subcommittee or does not fall within any previously assigned jurisdiction, the chairman shall refer the matter as he may deem advisable. Bills, resolutions, and other matters referred to subcommittees may be re-referred or discharged by the chairman when, in his judgment, the subcommittee is not able to complete its work or cannot reach agreement therein.

(c) The chairman and the ranking minority member of the full committee shall be ex officio members of all subcommittees. They are authorized to vote on subcommittee matters; but, unless they are regular members of the subcommittee, they shall not be counted in determining a subcommittee quorum other than a quorum for taking testimony.

RULE 7—SUBCOMMITTEE SCHEDULING

(a) Each subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive testimony, mark up legislation, and report to the full committee on any measure or matter referred to it.

(b) No subcommittee may meet or hold a hearing at the same time as a meeting or hearing of the full committee.

(c) The chair of each subcommittee shall set hearing and meeting dates only with the approval of the full committee chairman with a view toward assuring the availability of meeting rooms and avoiding simultaneous scheduling of committee meetings or hearings.

(d) Each subcommittee chair shall notify the chairman of any hearing plans at least two weeks before the date of commencement of the hearings, including the date, place, subject matter, and the names of witnesses, willing and unwilling, who would be called to testify, including, to the extent the chair is advised thereof, witnesses whom the minority members may request.

RULE 8—STAFF

(a) Except as otherwise provided by House Rule X, clauses 6, 7 and 9, the chairman of the full committee shall have the authority to hire and discharge employees of the professional and clerical staff of the committee.

(b) Except as otherwise provided by House Rule X, clauses 6, 7 and 9, the staff of the committee shall be subject to the direction of the chairman of the full committee and shall perform such duties as he or she may assign.

RULE 9—HEARINGS

(a) A committee member may question witnesses only when recognized by the chairman for that purpose. In accordance with House Rule XI, clause 2(j)(2), the five-minute rule shall apply during the questioning of witnesses in a hearing. The chairman shall, so far as practicable, recognize alternately based on seniority of those majority and minority members present at the time the hearing was called to order and others based on their arrival at the hearing. After that, additional time may be extended at the direction of the chairman.

(b) The chairman, or the committee by motion, may permit a specified number of majority and minority members to question a witness for a specified, total period that is equal for each side and not longer than thirty minutes for each side.

(c) The chairman, or the committee by motion, may permit committee staff of the majority and minority to question a witness for a specified, total period that is equal for each side and not longer than thirty minutes for each side.

(d) Nothing in paragraph (b) or (c) affects the rights of a member (other than a member designated under paragraph (b)) to question a witness for 5 minutes in accordance with paragraph (a). In any extended questioning permitted under paragraph (b) or (c), the chairman shall determine how to allocate the time permitted for extended questioning by majority members or majority committee staff, and the ranking minority member shall determine how to allocate the time permitted for extended questioning by minority members or minority committee staff.

(e) Hearings shall be conducted according to the procedures in House Rule XI, clause 2(k). All questions put to witnesses before the committee shall be relevant to the subject matter before the Committee for consideration, and the chairman shall rule on the relevance of any questions put to the witnesses.

(f) Witnesses appearing before the committee shall so far as practicable, submit written statements at least 24 hours before their appearance. Witnesses appearing in a non-governmental capacity shall include a curriculum vitae and a disclosure of the amount and source (by agency and program) of each federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof), as well as the amount and source of payments or contracts originating from foreign governments, insofar as they relate to the subject matter of the hearing, received during the current fiscal year or either of the two previous fiscal years, by the witness or by an entity represented by the witness.

(g) The chairman or any member designated by the chairman may administer oaths to any witness before the committee. All witnesses appearing in hearings may be administered the following oath by the chairman or his designee prior to receiving the testimony: ''Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the testimony that you are about to give is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?''.

(h) To the maximum extent practicable, amendments to a measure or matter shall be submitted in writing or electronically to the designee of both the chairman and ranking minority member at least 24 hours prior to the consideration of the measure or matter. The chairman may use his discretion to give priority to amendments submitted in advance.

RULE 10—COMMITTEE RECORDS, OPEN MEETINGS, TRANSPARENCY

(a) The committee staff shall maintain in the committee offices a complete record of committee actions from the current Congress including a record of the roll call votes taken at committee business meetings. The original records, or true copies thereof, as appropriate, shall be available for public inspection whenever the committee offices are open for public business. The staff shall assure that such original records are preserved with no unauthorized alteration, additions, or defacement.

(b) A stenographic record of all testimony shall be kept of public hearings and shall be made available on such conditions as the chairman may prescribe.

(c) Meetings for the transaction of business and hearings of the committee shall be open to the public or closed in accordance with the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(d) The chairman of the full committee shall maintain an official website on behalf of the committee for the purpose of furthering the committee's legislative and oversight responsibilities, including communicating information about the committee's activities to committee members and other members of the House. To the greatest extent practicable, the chairman shall ensure that committee records are made available on the committee's official website in appropriate formats.

(e) The ranking minority member of the full committee is authorized to maintain a similar official website on behalf of the committee minority for the same purpose, including communicating information about the activities of the minority to committee members and other members of the House.

RULE 11—AUDIO AND VISUAL COVERAGE OF COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

(a) An open meeting or hearing of the committee may be covered, in whole or in part, by television broadcast, radio broadcast, internet broadcast, and still photography, unless closed subject to the provisions of House Rules. Any such coverage shall conform to the provisions of House Rule XI, clause 4.

(b) Use of the Committee Broadcast System shall be fair and nonpartisan, and in accordance with House Rule XI, clause 4(b), and all other applicable rules of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Members of the committee shall have prompt access to a copy of coverage by the Committee Broadcast System, to the extent that such coverage is maintained.

(c) Personnel providing coverage of an open meeting or hearing of the committee by internet broadcast, other than through the Committee Broadcast System shall be currently accredited to the Radio and Television Correspondents' Galleries. If the Committee Broadcast System is not available, the chairman may, with the concurrence of the ranking minority member, direct staff to provide coverage in a manner that is fair and nonpartisan and in accordance with House Rule XI, clause 4.

RULE 12—ADDITIONAL DUTIES OF CHAIRMAN

The chairman of the full committee shall:

(a) Make available to other committees the findings and recommendations resulting from the investigations of the committee as required by House Rule X, clause 4(c)(2);

(b) Direct such review and studies on the impact or probable impact of tax policies affecting subjects within the committee's jurisdiction as required by House Rule X, clause 2(c);

(c) Submit to the Committee on the Budget views and estimates required by House Rule X, clause 4(f), and to file reports with the House as required by the Congressional Budget Act;

(d) Authorize and issue subpoenas as provided in House Rule XI, clause 2(m), in the conduct of any investigation or activity or series of investigations or activities within the jurisdiction of the Committee;

(e) Prepare, after consultation with the ranking minority member, a budget for the Committee;

(f) Make any necessary technical and conforming changes to legislation reported by the committee upon unanimous consent; and

(g) Offer motions under clause 1 of Rule XXII of the Rules of the House (motion to request or agree to a conference) whenever the chairman considers it appropriate.

RULE 13—CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

(a) The determination of the subject matter of commemorative stamps and new semi-postal issues is properly for consideration by the Postmaster General and the committee will not give consideration to legislative proposals specifying the subject matter of commemorative stamps and new semi-postal issues. It is suggested that recommendations for the subject matter of stamps be submitted to the Postmaster General.

(b) The consideration of bills designating facilities of the United States Postal Service shall be conducted so as to minimize the time spent on such matters by the committee and the House of Representatives.

(c) The chairman shall not request to have scheduled any resolution for consideration under suspension of the Rules, which expresses appreciation, commends, congratulates, celebrates, recognizes the accomplishments of, or celebrates the anniversary of, an entity, event, group, individual, institution, team or government program; or acknowledges or recognizes a period of time for such purposes.

RULE 14—PANELS AND TASK FORCES

(a) The chairman of the full committee is authorized to appoint panels or task forces to carry out the duties and functions of the committee.

(b) The chairman and ranking minority member of the full committee may serve as ex-officio members of each panel or task force.

(c) The chairman of any panel or task force shall be appointed by the chairman of the full committee. The ranking minority member of the full committee shall select a ranking minority member for each panel or task force.

(d) The House and committee rules applicable to subcommittee meetings, hearings, recommendations, and reports shall apply to the meetings, hearings, recommendations, and reports of panels and task forces.

(e) No panel or task force so appointed shall continue in existence for more than six months. A panel or task force so appointed may, upon the expiration of six months, be reappointed by the chairman.

RULE 15—DEPOSITION AUTHORITY

(a) The chairman of the full committee, upon consultation with the ranking minority member of the full committee, may order the taking of depositions, under oath and pursuant to notice or subpoena.

(b) Notices for the taking of depositions shall specify the date, time, and place of examination (if other than within the committee offices). Depositions shall be taken under oath administered by a member or a person otherwise authorized to administer oaths.

(c) Consultation with the ranking minority member shall include three business days notice before any deposition is taken. All members shall also receive three business days notice that a deposition has been scheduled.

(d) Witnesses may be accompanied at a deposition by counsel to advise them of their rights. No one may be present at depositions except members, committee staff designated by the chairman or ranking minority member of the full committee, an official reporter, the witness, and the witness's counsel. Observers or counsel for other persons, or for agencies under investigation, may not attend.

(e) At least one member of the committee shall be present at each deposition taken by the committee, unless the witness to be deposed agrees in writing to waive this requirement.

(f) A deposition shall be conducted by any member or staff attorney designated by the chairman or ranking minority member. When depositions are conducted by committee staff attorneys, there shall be no more than two committee staff attorneys permitted to question a witness per round. One of the committee staff attorneys shall be designated by the chairman and the other by the ranking minority member. Other committee staff members designated by the chairman or ranking minority member may attend, but may not pose questions to the witness.

(g) Questions in the deposition shall be propounded in rounds, alternating between the majority and minority. A single round shall not exceed 60 minutes per side, unless the members or staff attorneys conducting the deposition agree to a different length of questioning. In each round, a member or committee staff attorney designated by the chairman shall ask questions first, and the member or committee staff attorney designated by the ranking minority member shall ask questions second.

(h) Any objection made during a deposition must be stated concisely and in a non-argumentative and non-suggestive manner. The witness may refuse to answer a question only to preserve a privilege. When the witness has objected and refused to answer a question to preserve a privilege, the full committee chairman may rule on any such objection after the deposition has adjourned. If the chairman overrules any such objection and thereby orders a witness to answer any question to which a privilege objection was lodged, such ruling shall be filed with the clerk of the committee and shall be provided to the members and the witness no less than three days before the reconvened deposition. If a member of the committee appeals in writing the ruling of the chairman, the appeal shall be preserved for committee consideration. A deponent who refuses to answer a question after being directed to answer by the chairman in writing may be subject to sanction, except that no sanctions may be imposed if the ruling of the chairman is reversed on appeal.

(i) Committee staff shall ensure that the testimony is either transcribed or electronically recorded or both. If a witness's testimony is transcribed, the witness or the witness's counsel shall be afforded an opportunity to review a copy. No later than five days thereafter, the witness may submit suggested changes to the chairman. Committee staff may make any typographical and technical changes.. Substantive changes, modifications, clarifications, or amendments to the deposition transcript submitted by the witness must be accompanied by a letter signed by the witness requesting the changes and a statement of the witness's reasons for each proposed change. Any substantive changes, modifications, clarifications, or amendments shall be included as an appendix to the transcript conditioned upon the witness signing the transcript.

(j) The individual administering the oath, if other than a member, shall certify on the transcript that the witness was duly sworn. The transcriber shall certify that the transcript is a true record of the testimony, and the transcript shall be filed, together with any electronic recording, with the clerk of the Committee in Washington, DC. Depositions shall be considered to have been taken in Washington, DC, as well as the location actually taken once filed there with the clerk of the Committee for the Committee's use. The chairman and the ranking minority member of the full committee shall be provided with a copy of the transcripts of the deposition at the same time.

(k) The chairman and ranking minority member of the full committee shall consult regarding the release of depositions. If either objects in writing to a proposed release of a deposition or a portion thereof, the matter shall be promptly referred to the full committee for resolution.

(l) A witness shall not be required to testify unless the witness has been provided with a copy of the committee's rules.

## ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the House stands adjourned until noon tomorrow for morning-hour debate.

There was no objection.

Thereupon (at 1 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, February 10, 2015, at noon for morning-hour debate.

## EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

353. A letter from the Acting Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Animal Welfare; Retail Pet Stores and Licensing Exemptions; Technical Amendment [Docket No.: APHIS-2011-0003] (RIN: 0579-AD57) received January 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

354. A letter from the Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization for Colonel

Michael J. Tarsa, United States Army, to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

355. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility (New Castle County, DE, et al.) [Docket ID: FEMA-2014-0002] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8365] received February 2, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

356. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility (Anne Arundel County, MD, et al.) [Docket ID: FEMA-2014-0002] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8367] received January 29, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

357. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Revisions to Annual Return/Report — Multiple-Employer Plans (RIN: 1210-AB66) received January 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

358. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Environment, Health, Safety and Security, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Technical Amendments: Transfer of Office Functions (RIN: 1992-AA47) received February 2, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

359. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources and Chief Financial Officer, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Fiscal Year 2014 Agency Financial Report, pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA) of 1982; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

360. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting consistent with the resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling, and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, adopted by the Senate of the United States on April 24, 1997, and Executive Order 13346 of July 8, 2004, a certification for calendar year 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

361. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report concerning international agreements other than treaties, entered into by the United States, to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

362. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Lebanon that was declared in Executive Order 13441 of August 1, 2007; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

363. A letter from the Chairman, Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting the Board's report ''The Impact of Recruitment Strategy on Fair and Open Competition for Federal Jobs'', pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 1204(a)(3); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

364. A letter from the Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting the Office's Explanatory Notes, Annual Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report for Fiscal Year 2016; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

365. A letter from the Chief Administrative Officer, transmitting a quarterly report of receipts and expenditures of appropriations and other funds for the period October 1, 2014, through December 31, 2014, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 104a; Public Law 88-454; (H. Doc. No. 114—8); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

366. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zones; Dignitary Arrival/Departure and United Nations Meetings, New York, NY [Docket No.: USCG-2013-1009] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received January 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

367. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Blue Water Resort and Casino Southwest Showdown 4; Parker, AZ [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0990] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

368. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone: Eastport Breakwater Terminal, Eastport, Maine [USCG-2014-1037] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

369. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulated Navigation Areas and Limited Access Areas; Waterway Management of Apra Harbor, Guam [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0935] (RIN: 1625-AA00, 1625-AA11, and 1625-AA87) received January 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

370. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Regulated Navigation Area; Sarah Mildred Long Bridge Replacement, Portsmouth, NH [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0554] (RIN: 1625-AA11) received January 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

371. A letter from the Chair, Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Panel's Annual Report for 2014, pursuant to Public Law 109-155, section 106(b); to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

372. A letter from the Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for WTO and Multilateral Affairs, Office of the United States Trade Representative, Executive Office of the President, transmitting the Administration's Annual Report on Subsidies Enforcement, pursuant to the Statement of Administrative Action of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 629. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the reduced recognition period for built-in gains of S corporations; with an amendment (Rept. 114–15). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 630. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent certain rules regarding basis adjustments to stock of S corporations making charitable contributions of property; with an amendment (Rept. 114–16). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 641. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions; with an amendment (Rept. 114–17). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 644. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend and expand the charitable deduction for contributions of food inventory; with an amendment (Rept. 114–18). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 640. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the tax rate for excise tax on investment income of private foundations; with an amendment (Rept. 114–19, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 637. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the rule allowing certain tax-free distributions from individual retirement accounts for charitable purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114–20, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 636. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114–21, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, Committee on the Budget discharged from further consideration. H.R. 636 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, Committee on the Budget discharged from further consideration. H.R. 637 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, Committee on the Budget discharged from further consideration. H.R. 640 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

## PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. PALAZZO (for himself, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. BROOKS of Alabama):

H.R. 810. A bill to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes; to the

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana (for himself and Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California):

H.R. 811. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide notice to charities and other nonprofit organizations before their tax-exempt status is automatically revoked; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SIMPSON (for himself, Mr. COLE, and Mr. HECK of Washington):

H.R. 812. A bill to provide for Indian trust asset management reform, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. BERA, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. MCNERNEY):

H.R. 813. A bill to supplement the Secretary of the Army's existing authorities to review the operations of reservoirs; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. JOLLY:

H.R. 814. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide additional aggravating factors for the imposition of the death penalty based on the status of the victim; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LONG (for himself, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. BURGESS, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. OLSON, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. PETERS, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

H.R. 815. A bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to preserve consumer and employer access to licensed independent insurance producers; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia (for himself, Mr. JORDAN, Mrs. NOEM, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mrs. WAGNER, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. JONES, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. BUCK, Mr. SALMON, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. HARPER, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. OLSON, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. LATTA, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Mrs. LOVE, and Mr. WEBER of Texas):

H.R. 816. A bill to implement equal protection under the 14th article of amendment to the Constitution for the right to life of each born and preborn human person; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NUNES (for himself, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. COOK, and Mr. DEFAZIO):

H.R. 817. A bill to suspend the implementation of zip code reclassifications for Medicare payment for ambulance services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROSKAM (for himself, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. BERA, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. COOPER, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. HANNA, Mr. HIMES, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. KIND, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. OLSON, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. PETERS, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. WOMACK):

H.R. 818. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to curb waste, fraud, and abuse in the Medicare and Medicaid programs; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 819. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to use the definitions in section 40125 of title 49, United States Code, in determining whether an unmanned aircraft conducting aeronautical research flights qualifies for public aircraft status under that section, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. KLINE (for himself and Mr. ROE of Tennessee):

H.J. Res. 29. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to representation case procedures; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CHAFFETZ:

H. Res. 97. A resolution providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform in the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. PALAZZO:

H.R. 810.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: The Congress shall have power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes; and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:

H.R. 811.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have the Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debt and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. SIMPSON:

H.R. 812.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, which grants Congress the power to regulate Commerce with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 813.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Office thereof.

By Mr. JOLLY:

H.R. 814.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1, Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution which reads: ''The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises, to pay the Debts, and provide for the common Defense and General Welfare of the United States; but all Duties and Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.''

By Mr. LONG:

H.R. 815.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States. Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution, which states ''To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof.''

By Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia:

H.R. 816.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This legislation makes clear that human life begins at the moment of conception and, therefore, the unborn are entitled to the same rights and protections afforded to all American citizens under the U.S. Constitution. In affirming human life begins at conception, the unborn are granted the right to due process under Section 1 of the 14th Amendment which explicitly states, ''No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.''

The Life at Conception Act allows for constitutional protection for the unborn that they not ''be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law'' afforded under the 5th Amendment.

By Mr. NUNES:

H.R. 817.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution

By Mr. ROSKAM:

H.R. 818.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 states The Congress shall have Power To provide . . .

for the . . . general Welfare of the United States.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 819.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. KLINE:

H.J. Res. 29.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause 3 of the Constitution of the United States

## ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 24: Mr. TROTT, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. OLSON, and Mr. BISHOP of Michigan.

H.R. 91: Ms. ADAMS.

H.R. 156: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 167: Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia and Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 199: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 210: Mr. CURBELO of Florida and Mr. KATKO.

H.R. 217: Mr. POMPEO and Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin.

H.R. 224: Ms. CLARKE of New York and Ms. ESTY.

H.R. 230: Mr. NUGENT.

H.R. 235: Mr. BRADY of Texas and Mr. HECK of Nevada.

H.R. 258: Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 270: Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. STEWART, Mr. CHABOT, and Mr. BISHOP of Utah.

H.R. 284: Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. KING of Iowa.

H.R. 317: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 333: Ms. PINGREE, Mr. KILMER, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 381: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California and Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 408: Mr. SCHRADER and Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 429: Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 524: Mr. WOMACK, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. FORBES, and Mr. OLSON.

H.R. 525: Mr. BENISHEK.

H.R. 528: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio and Mr. KLINE.

H.R. 539: Mr. POLIS and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 555: Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Mr. HUELSKAMP.

H.R. 581: Mr. HIGGINS.

H.R. 583: Mr. OLSON.

H.R. 599: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.

H.R. 609: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 619: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 636: Mr. EMMER.

H.R. 654: Mr. KING of New York, Mr. ROSS, Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia, and Mr. STEWART.

H.R. 681: Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 699: Mr. BUTTERFIELD and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 732: Mr. MEEKS.

H.R. 763: Mr. CRAMER and Mr. JONES.

H.R. 782: Mr. RANGEL and Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California.

H.R. 784: Mr. ENGEL, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. HONDA, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Mr. VEASEY.

H.R. 804: Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. POCAN, and Ms. MOORE.

H. Res. 15: Mr. MCGOVERN.

United States of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 114th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 161 WASHINGTON, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2015 No. 21

# Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

## PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Our Father, be with us not only in great moments of experience but also during life's mundane tasks.

Through the power of Your Spirit, may our Senators mount up with wings like eagles, running without weariness and walking without fainting. Lord, give them the wisdom to be patient with others, ever lenient to their faults and ever prompt to appreciate their virtues. Rule in their hearts, keeping them from sin and sustaining their loved ones in all of their tomorrows. Surround them with the shield of Your favor, as You provide them with a future and a hope, accomplishing in their lives more than they can ask or imagine.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

## RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip is recognized.

## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I move to proceed to H.R. 240.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 5, H.R. 240, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 405

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 405) to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings.

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

Mr. CORNYN. I yield the floor.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the American people can get their news in various fashions, whether it is a blog, the nightly news or in a newspaper. They are very concerned. They are concerned about the threat of global terrorism. And why shouldn't they be? Look at what they see.

We see ISIS has murdered tens of thousands of people. One need only to look back at those thousands of Yazidi people who are trapped in the mountains in Iraq. We saw it play on day after day. These people were fleeing for their lives and many of them didn't make it.

We have watched not only tens of thousands murdered, but we have watched them behead people. Just a few days ago we watched them put a man in a cage, set the cage on fire, and burn him alive. They are so void of any respectability; they are so uncivilized. They filmed 22 minutes of that man suffering the utmost torture until he died—22 minutes of torture.

We look around the world, and in Paris 20 people are dead of a terrorist attack. People are dead in Belgium thwarting that terrorist attack. In Ottawa, Canada, at the Parliament terrorists attacked. In Sydney, Australia, there was an attack in a restaurant.

It seems that no matter what the day is, there is another act of terror that we have to be aware of. We have watched, with some dismay, at the terror that is coming. ISIS has bragged that they are coming our way.

We have our national security agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security, which has protected us from attacks to this point. Now we are 18 days away from having no money for the Department of Homeland Security—18 days. But that is a false number because we are out of session for about 10 of those 18 days. So really, after this week, we are down to less than 1 week to protect our homeland.

Jeh Johnson, the Secretary of Homeland Security, was on national TV yesterday warning the American people of what we face. He went through what his agency does, what they do to protect our homeland. That agency was established during the Presidency of George W. Bush. It happened after 9/11. We consolidated 22 different agencies into something that is more workable. Jeh Johnson has done a very, very good job.

There is border protection, the Coast Guard, and they have responsibilities for preventing cyber attacks. There is rarely a day that goes by when there isn't some cyber attack. Which one is big that day? We had Sony play out, and we had Anthem just a few days ago.

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



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Republicans are hellbent on playing chicken with our national security.

Jeh Johnson said yesterday he would have to furlough as many as 30,000 people if the Republicans decided to do a continuing resolution, which would be at last year's numbers. It would prevent the Department of Homeland Security from funding any new grants. These are grants that help our country, grants for dogs sniffing out all kinds of bad things. These grants fund counterterrorism task force units. A very big one is waiting to be established in Arizona.

In Las Vegas we have an urban area security initiative. We have 50 million people who come to Las Vegas each year. We need help to make sure local agencies can respond where they have to.

Why are we concerned about these grants? We are concerned because it is what helps local government be ready for these attacks when and if they come.

But the Republicans have come to the conclusion that they are far more afraid of these people—some of whom were here last week—the DREAMers. They dreamed of having a country they could relate to. They came to America as babies. It was the only country they even knew. It was a country where they saluted the flag for many years, and President Obama gave them respectability.

A woman who was here and I talked about last week is a young woman from Las Vegas. Her name is Blanca Gamez. She is a wonderful, wonderful woman. She has two degrees, and she is going to law school next year. She works, and she pays taxes. But it appears that the Republicans are more afraid of her than they are of ISIS—these people who behead people and they burn people in cages.

We cannot allow this to go on the way it is headed. These grants help local firefighters. The DHS directives target criminals instead of families. Republicans, I guess, want us to target these families rather than criminals.

Why are Republicans putting our country at risk?

This isn't some liberal cabal that is talking about this. Let's take, for example, one of the most conservative publications in America, the Wall Street Journal. They wrote a featured opinion piece today about Republican Members of Congress.

The Wall Street Journal says the Republicans' reckless strategy is doomed to fail. Even the very conservative editors of that newspaper said today that Republicans' reckless scheme is destined for—what is in their words—''a spectacular crack-up.'' These are a few things of what they say in the article.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the February 9, 2015, opinion article from the Wall Street Journal entitled: ''Can the GOP Change?''

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

[From the Wall Street Journal Editorial, Feb. 8, 2015]

CAN THE GOP CHANGE?

The immigration defeat reveals a larger problem in Congress.

Republicans in Congress are off to a less than flying start after a month in power, dividing their own conference more than Democrats. Take the response to President Obama's immigration order, which seems headed for failure if not a more spectacular crack-up.

That decree last November awarded work permits and de facto legal status to millions of undocumented aliens and dismayed members of both parties, whatever their immigration views. A Congressional resolution to vindicate the rule of law and the Constitution's limits on executive power was defensible, and even necessary, but this message has long ago been lost in translation.

The Republican leadership funded the rest of the government in December's budget deal but isolated the Department of Homeland Security that enforces immigration law. DHS funding runs out this month, and the GOP has now marched itself into another box canyon.

The specific White House abuse was claiming prosecutorial discretion to exempt whole classes of aliens from deportation, dumping the historical norm of case-by-case scrutiny. A GOP sniper shot at this legal overreach would have forced Democrats to go on record, picked up a few supporters, and perhaps even imposed some accountability on Mr. Obama.

But that wasn't enough for immigration restrictionists, who wanted a larger brawl, and they browbeat GOP leaders into adding needless policy amendments. The House reached back to rescind Mr. Obama's enforcement memos from 2011 that instructed Homeland Security to prioritize deportations of illegals with criminal backgrounds. That is legitimate prosecutorial discretion, and in opposing it Republicans are undermining their crime-fighting credentials.

The House even adopted a provision to roll back Mr. Obama's 2012 order deferring deportation for young adults brought to the U.S. illegally as children by their parents—the so-called dreamers. The GOP lost 26 of its own Members on that one, passing it with only 218 votes.

The overall $40 billion DHS spending bill passed with these riders, 236–191, but with 10 Republicans joining all but two Democrats in opposition. This lack of GOP unity reduced the chances that Senate Democrats would feel any political pressure to go along.

And, lo, on Thursday the House bill failed for the third time to gain the 60 votes needed to overcome the third Democratic filibuster in three days. Swing-state Democrats like Indiana's Joe Donnelly and North Dakota's Heidi Heitkamp aren't worried because they have more than enough material to portray Republicans as the immigration extremists.

Whatever their view of Mr. Obama's order, why would Democrats vote to deport people who were brought here as kids through no fault of their own? Mr. Obama issued a veto threat to legislation that will never get to his desk, and he must be delighted that Republicans are fighting with each other rather than with him.

Restrictionists like Sens. Ted Cruz and Jeff Sessions are offering their familiar advice to fight harder and hold firm against ''executive amnesty,'' but as usual their strategy for victory is nowhere to be found. So Republicans are now heading toward the same cul de sac that they did on the ObamaCare government shutdown.

If Homeland Security funding lapses on Feb. 27, the agency will be pushed into a partial shutdown even as the terrorist threat is at the forefront of public attention with the Charlie Hebdo and Islamic State murders. Imagine if the Transportation Security Administration, a unit of DHS, fails to intercept an Islamic State agent en route to Detroit.

So Republicans are facing what is likely to be another embarrassing political retreat and more intra-party recriminations. The GOP's restrictionist wing will blame the leadership for a failure they share responsibility for, and the rest of America will wonder anew about the gang that couldn't shoot straight.

The restrictionist caucus can protest all it wants, but it can't change 54 Senate votes into 60 without persuading some Democrats. It's time to find another strategy. Our advice on immigration is to promote discrete bills that solve specific problems such as green cards for math-science-tech graduates, more H–1B visas, a guest-worker program for agriculture, targeted enforcement and legal status for the dreamers. Democrats would be hard-pressed to oppose them and it would put the onus back on Mr. Obama. But if that's too much for the GOP, then move on from immigration to something else.

It's not too soon to say that the fate of the GOP majority is on the line. Precious weeks are wasting, and the combination of weak House leadership and a rump minority unwilling to compromise is playing into Democratic hands. This is no way to run a Congressional majority, and the only winners of GOP dysfunction will be Mr. Obama, Nancy Pelosi and Hillary Clinton.

Mr. REID. I will read parts of the article:

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So Republicans are facing what is likely to be another embarrassing political retreat and more intra-party recriminations. The GOP's restrictionist wing will blame the leadership for a failure they share responsibility for, and the rest of America will wonder anew about the gang that couldn't shoot straight.

This is about as serious as anything could be. We need to fund this agency which is so vitally important to our country. We need to pass a clean bill—the bipartisan bill that Speaker BOEHNER and the majority leader agreed to in November—and give the American people the protection they deserve. Anything less is not good, is a disaster for our country, and really is very, very bad to protect our homeland.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

## MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with the time equally divided until 5 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, last Wednesday, President Obama made a statement that is troubling to me. I think those of us who believe in Executive leadership and honest leadership, where leaders talk directly to the people about the serious problems we face, have to be troubled by this trend with this administration. Sometimes it makes me fear for the future of the Republic. He accused Republicans of ''defunding the very operations that are involved in making sure we've got strong border security.'' He said Republicans are blocking funding of that. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The House of Representatives—the Republican House—has passed a bill with $40 billion, funding fully, as basically the President requested, all the agencies in the Department of Homeland Security. It has one little catch to it; it bars the President from taking money from the Department of Homeland Security that is supposed to be used to enforce the law and using that to grant amnesty and to undermine the law. The House bill is not in any way undermining the security of the United States of America, the ability for Homeland Security to protect us from terrorists. In fact, it strengthens that ability because it keeps the money there and uses it for those purposes, whereas right now the President is spending over $100 million to create a structure across the river that would hire 1,000 new people in Homeland Security to process amnesty applications for people who violated the law and to give them the right to have earned income tax credit benefits, a Social Security card, the ability to take any job in the American economy that maybe an unemployed American would like to have or a recent immigrant with a green card would like to have. No, this person who entered the country now unlawfully gets to take that job under this policy. Congress did not fund that. But it funded the laws of the agency. The President, as he said himself 20 times, had no power to do this.

So what is happening now in the Senate, colleagues? Our Democratic colleagues now unanimously, it appears, are blocking even moving to the bill that funds Homeland Security. So I ask, with all sincerity, how can it be said that the Republicans are failing to fund the operations making sure we have strong border security? How can that be made a statement by the President of the United States?

I think we need to keep talking about that. We should not allow these modern-age politicians to go to the American people with false stories about what is happening. The Democratic Members of this Senate are systematically blocking the bill we would like to see come to the floor that fully funds Homeland Security. They have been given the right, as Senator MCCONNELL has repeatedly stated—which Senator REID never did—they have been given the right to offer any amendments they would like that are relevant and germane to the bill. So I would say this is a most serious thing with me, and I believe the American people need to understand it.

The House bill will not deny a single penny of funding for legitimate lawful operations of Homeland Security. It will be spent on enforcing the law, enforcing the Immigration and Nationality Act that was actually passed by Congress.

What the President is attempting to do is to create and execute a law Congress rejected. He asked the House to pass this law and the House said, no, they did not agree with this policy and rejected it. So he is executing it anyway.

Senate Republicans have attempted to move the bill to the floor three times, and each time it has been blocked by our Democratic colleagues because the bill does not fund the President's unlawful Executive amnesty that he admitted 20 separate times he did not have the power to do.

Congress, colleagues, is supposed to spend the taxpayers' money wisely. Congress should not fund any program, no matter how much the President wants it, that they believe is bad policy. More importantly, more clearly, no Senator should vote to fund a Presidential policy that violates the law, that violates the Constitution, that distorts the relationship between the Congress, which makes laws, and the President, who is supposed to execute only the laws Congress makes. So that is where we are at this point.

The President is not entitled to spend taxpayer money to implement a system of immigration that Congress has rejected. An article in yesterday's Washington Times is further indication of where we are in this world of politics. It was reported that the Department of Homeland Security is spending taxpayer money to set up hotlines for illegal immigrants to call in to with any complaints they may have about immigration law enforcement officers if they think the officers have violated their ''rights'' under President Obama's Executive amnesty—not violating their rights under law—but the President has told them this and sent out this message to the stakeholder groups.

Now who are the stakeholder groups? I suppose they are the activist groups. That is how they refer to them: stakeholders. So they send out this message: If you are not happy with the way the Federal agency is executing my policy but indeed those agencies are attempting to enforce the law as written, then you have a ''right'' to call in to this hotline, and I will get on them, and I will see that they do it.

So how do the officers feel about this? National Border Patrol Council vice president Shawn Moran said this in a response. First, let me tell you, the Border Patrol officers in the USCIS—the Citizenship and Immigration Services officers—have opposed the President's Executive amnesty. Their association has laid out how it will make the problem worse, it will increase the risk of terrorist attacks, and otherwise further degrade the integrity of our legal system. They have been clear about this. We ought to listen to them. They enforce that law repeatedly. That is their duty. They have opposed bills that they think may look good on the surface but once they have read them and found out the bill will not work effectively, they speak out against that, which is very helpful, and I am glad they do.

Well, this is what Mr. Moran said:

> Instead of supporting our agents, this administration had decided it is more important to find new ways to solicit complaints and invite ridicule against them.

The American people have to know that the Obama administration's dereliction of duty relating to our immigration system did not begin with this recent decree. From the day he took office, the President has relentlessly and systematically, colleagues, friends, the American people, dismantled immigration enforcement. It is far more serious than you would imagine.

My office has compiled a 49-page baseline timeline of nearly 200 specific entries and events that occurred since 2009 detailing how the law of the United States has been undermined by directives and orders from the President of the United States. It is step by step. This one person alone, the President, has acted against the will of the American people and undermined the law in America.

Just briefly, I will mention the first event that came to my mind. When he took office in early 2009, I believe in the State of Washington, the officers, doing their duty, enforcing the law that says a business cannot hire somebody unlawfully in America, investigated a business in Washington, discovered quite a number of people unlawfully in America, and were to commence action against the business for violating plain law that is still on the books and has not been repealed. And what happened? Immediately, the President intervened. He told them: No. Do not do this. And he told the activist groups—the La Razas and the other activist groups that were engaged in pushing him on this issue—essentially, he told them: Look, I am going to honor the promise I made to you during the campaign—that is the way I would interpret it—not to allow this kind of lawful activity to happen in the future.

So from day one, the law officers of our country got a clear message. What was the message? If you go out and enforce the law, you will get in trouble. If you do not say anything and do not do anything and stay back and lay back and not enforce the law, everything will be OK. That began the situation.

Here are just some of the highlights that I circled and looked at.

This was the Bellingham, WA, case I just mentioned, detaining 28 illegal immigrants who were using false, fake Social Security documents.

On January 29, 2009, in April of 2009, and June of 2009, the Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano delays the E-Verify deadlines. E-Verify is a system by which businesses are supposed to check a person's Social Security Number to find out if it is valid before they hire them. Many times we know people have used false Social Security Numbers to get work. She delayed that. Then she delayed it again in April, and delayed it again in June.

In June of 2010, the ICE union—the Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers—they are three basic groups: the ICE group, there is the Border Patrol group, and the Citizenship and Immigration Services group that processes the paperwork. The ICE union cast a unanimous vote of ''no confidence'' in the agency Homeland Security leadership, including ICE Director John Morton and Assistant Director Phyllis Coven, citing ''the growing dissatisfaction and concern among ICE employees'' that they ''have abandoned the Agency's''—ICE's—''core mission of enforcing United States Immigration Laws and providing for public safety, and have instead directed their attention to campaigning for programs and policies related to amnesty.''

He said the policy of this government—not what we as sworn officers are supposed to be enforcing, but the policy of our leaders is to spend all their time campaigning for policies related to amnesty and undermining enforcement.

ICE officers went so far, colleagues, as to file a lawsuit in Federal court contending they were being ordered to violate the law by their supervisors. A judge expressed sympathy for them but eventually decided they didn't have standing to proceed with the case, but I think it is still on appeal.

In 2011, at a roundtable with amnesty advocates, President Obama admitted his deportation statistics were misleading. Indeed, they have been. They claim they have increased deportation, but that is totally incorrect. They finally had to admit it.

In February of 2012 President Obama slashed the budget for the 287(g) Program, a program that I helped advocate for and moved forward when I came to the Senate 10 years ago. It simply says the Federal Government will work with State and local law enforcement officers to train them in the things they can legally do to help the Federal officers enforce the law. It is a perfectly sensible program, and it is very popular. A number of States have taken quite a step toward it. It was working in an effective way, and they canceled it after he took office.

They announced the delay in the biometric entry-exit visa system in February of last year. An inspector general audit revealed declines in workplace enforcement of substantial amounts as a direct result of White House policies, and they admit the Obama administration manipulated deportation data.

In March of last year a new report revealed that the ICE officers——

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has consumed 10 minutes.

Mr. SESSIONS. I thank the Chair, and I ask unanimous consent for 1 additional minute to wrap up.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SESSIONS. It was revealed that ICE released 68,000 convicted criminals in 2013. These are convicted criminals.

In May of last year the Deputy Chief of Border Patrol revealed that the border surge was incentivized by the administration's policies.

As I said, there are 49 pages of this.

I would point out that we are ready to bring the bill to the floor and allow amendments to the legislation passed by the House that fully funds Homeland Security and ensures that the money is spent for enforcement and not to dismantle the law.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

## BOTTICELLI NOMINATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, Senator ALEXANDER and Senator ENZI are here on the floor. I want to briefly address the nominee we will be voting on this afternoon and then turn to the matter the three of us wish to address.

Today the Senate is going to vote on the nomination of Michael Botticelli to be the next Director of National Drug Control Policy. I look forward to working with our Nation's next drug czar just as I have with previous drug czars.

Drug abuse is a serious problem in my home State. Kentucky is the fifth highest prescribing State when it comes to pain killers, and we have the Nation's third highest drug overdose mortality rate, with many deaths driven by prescription pain killers.

Heroin abuse is also a problem in the Bluegrass State. Heroin deaths accounted for 32 percent of the drug overdoses back in 2013, and they continue to climb. The epicenter of the heroin problem is located in the northern region across the river from Cincinnati, although I am hearing more and more from constituents that drug abuse is rising in other parts of the Commonwealth as well.

All told, the Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy reports that about 1,000 Kentuckians lose their lives overdosing on drugs every year, which is more than we lose in fatal car crashes.

There is another reason I am pleased to welcome prior drug czar Gil Kerlikowski to tour Kentucky. We had him there a couple of years ago to take a closeup look at the problems we face. He visited Louisville, Lexington, London, and Pikeville—four communities, both urban and rural, across the State. He met with Kentuckians who worked to tackle this issue from every single angle—public health officials, medical professionals, law enforcement officials, drug courts, members of the business community, and Kentuckians involved with prevention. The drug czar's visit helped focus more Federal attention and Federal resources on this issue, and in a time of strained budgets, the extra attention and those extra resources are particularly important.

I am also pleased to report that Mr. Botticelli plans to visit Eastern Kentucky soon. He also plans, at my invitation, to visit Northern Kentucky this spring. Visits such as these help ensure continued Federal focus on Kentucky's drug problem, and I look forward to working with the next drug czar to move closer to the day when drug abuse is no longer ravaging our families and our communities.

(The remarks of Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mr. ENZI pertaining to the introduction of S.J. Res. 8 are printed in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

## BOTTICELLI NOMINATION

Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, I rise to speak in support of Michael Botticelli in our effort today to confirm him as Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

The State of Massachusetts, like too many other regions of this Nation, is being ravaged by the scourge of prescription drug and heroin addiction that is breaking apart families and burying communities under a mountain of despair. Massachusetts experienced 114 deaths in December, and that doesn't count our biggest cities, such as Boston and Worcester and Springfield.

Drug overdose deaths fueled by prescription pain killers now claim more lives than car accidents nationwide. Approximately 100 Americans die from an overdose every day.

As a Senator from Massachusetts, I have a deep appreciation and respect for Michael Botticelli's accomplishments addressing addiction during his nearly two decades serving in the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. He is a public health and drug policy pioneer, and he lived in my hometown of Malden, MA, while he did this job.

Immediately prior to joining the Office of National Drug Control Policy as Deputy Director, Mr. Botticelli was the director of the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services at the Massachusetts

Department of Public Health. While he was there, he pioneered innovative, effective approaches to substance abuse challenges. He was responsible for launching a program that expanded treatment and recovery opportunities in local community health centers, including a focus on providing a continuum of care for those suffering with substance use disorders. Mr. Botticelli also expanded innovative and nationally recognized prevention strategies. He established and implemented evidence-based jail diversion programs, reentry services for those leaving State and county correctional facilities, and overdose prevention programs.

Although there is always more work to be done, it is because of Mr. Botticelli's efforts and the legacy he left behind that Massachusetts is in many ways a national leader in addressing the prescription and heroin abuse epidemic.

Mr. Botticelli has been very public about his personal history of struggling with an alcohol use disorder as a young professional and seeking help that has led him into long-term recovery. He recently celebrated 26 years of sobriety, and I applaud him for that.

Mr. Botticelli's personal life experiences have provided him a unique perspective on the epidemic facing our Nation. When he joined me at a recent roundtable I convened in Boston about this crisis, he spoke about it in human terms. He reminded us that there is a family, a loved one, a friend, or a child behind each and every one of these statistics. His openness about his own struggles and his path to recovery helped shed much needed light on the issue of addiction, which has lurked too long in the shadows of shame and stigma. I think his story helps others to seek treatment and begin a life of recovery. He truly is leading by his own personal example.

The drug problems facing our country have changed dramatically since the Office of National Drug Control Policy was created in 1988. Mr. Botticelli has an excellent understanding of the mission of this office, the changing needs of the addiction community, and the urgency for solutions to halting the rise of substance use disorders in this country. I believe he is going to make a superlative Director, bringing his strong heart, keen mind, and Malden, MA, roots to the Office of National Drug Control Policy. I am honored to speak in support of his nomination on the floor today and look forward to working with him in the years to come. I recommend in the strongest possible terms Michael Botticelli for the Office of Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

## UKRAINE ASSISTANCE

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, I wish to speak about the Ukraine. Lord knows the President of the United States has enough on his plate, and he is trying to make the right decisions about what to do in giving assistance to the Ukrainian people and to the Ukrainian army to hold off Vladimir Putin's troops that are masquerading as rebels but, in fact, are bringing in Russian equipment and Russian soldiers who put on different uniforms. It is because of that that I think the wise choice would be for the United States to give lethal armaments to the Ukrainian people.

I was there in August. I spoke with all the members of the government—the Prime Minister, the Defense Minister, the Foreign Minister, the head of their Defense Council. At the time, I was surprised that they did not ask for lethal assistance but instead wanted up-to-the-minute intelligence, which was so important, and training. If my memory serves me correctly, in the Defense bill we provided about $350 million for that assistance. But the question of lethal armaments so that they can withstand the Russian tanks—if we want them to be successful—is exceptionally important in this Senator's mind and point of view.

There is another reason. Mrs. Merkel is in town today, and her position is that she does not want Europe to provide lethal assistance. Well, Germany, of course, is not sharing a geographic line with the former Soviet Union, now Russia, and Germany is not feeling the heat, even though a major component and member of NATO, like so many of the other NATO members farther to the east.

Some of the Baltic States—Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania—have substantial Russian populations. They are frightened of the realistic possibility of Putin, who has successfully taken a Russian-speaking part of Ukraine—namely, Crimea, which fell into his hand like a ripe plum—now moving on other parts of eastern Ukraine to establish a land bridge down to Crimea. What they fear is that suddenly the Russian army will amass on their border and use as a pretext, as Putin has done in eastern Ukraine, the coming in and rescuing and protecting of the Russian-speaking elements of those particular countries, particularly in the Baltics. There is a huge percentage of the population in Estonia that is Russian, likewise in Latvia and also Lithuania.

I met with the President of Lithuania, a woman whom a lot of people refer to in very admiring terms as a tough cookie, and that is apparent when you meet her. But the concerns about the Russian aggression are clearly there. They are very concerned that if eastern Ukraine falls, they will be next.

I think that is another reason that these courageous people who, after the break up of the Soviet Union, had so many years of corruption and bad government—now having thrown off the shackles of corruption, having a new government after all of those protests in the center of the capital city of Ukraine—I think it is incumbent upon us to help that little country defend itself against Russian aggression. When a Russian tank is bearing down on you, you need something that can penetrate the steel armor of that tank in order to stop that tank and all the other tanks from advancing.

I will stop right there and shift gears.

## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, the clock is ticking at the Department of Homeland Security, and we are about to run out of money. We will run out of money at the end of this month. If we get into a situation where the Department that is tasked with the protection of national security here at home does not have the funding to protect our borders, to protect the central location that directs our defense against cyber attacks, to protect us as we get on airplanes through TSA, and to patrol the waters of the coastal United States through our Coast Guard—if we don't have the money appropriated, then that, to this Senator, is inexcusable.

This is all over a dispute about immigration because some people want to have it their way and only their way, and therefore, they cannot stand that the President has the legal authority to issue an Executive order. That is not the way to protect ourselves against all of these adversaries.

When I came to Washington as a young Congressman many moons ago, it was very clearly understood that partisan politics stopped at the water's edge. When it came to matters of national security, there were no partisan politics. When it came to matters of foreign policy, there were no partisan politics. Oh my, how times have changed. Now, with the injection of ideological politics, it is time for us to move on.

## DISCOVERY SATELLITE

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, the third and last subject I wish to address is the launch of a major spacecraft/satellite which will be for the interest of the United States and the free world. Hopefully, that will take place tomorrow evening around 6 p.m.

I was at the Cape last night thinking that the Discovery satellite was going to be launched atop a Falcon rocket on pad 40 at the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. All systems were go, save for the radar system on the eastern test range of the Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center. The radar system went down, and they obviously cannot launch a rocket if they can't track it precisely, just in case it were to err from its course and had to be destroyed. So it was postponed. It has now been rescheduled for tomorrow night at approximately 6 p.m.

Why is this important? It is important because there are three major instruments. There are many more, but I will only mention three. No. 1, it will constantly aim an instrument at the Sun so when there is an additional solar explosion, which is a nuclear explosion on the face of the Sun, and all that additional radiation starts coming in what is known as solar wind to the United States, we can prepare for that nuclear radiation and save our satellites, save certain electrical grid systems, and warn pilots who are flying a route over the poles where the magnetic field of the Earth does not protect and repel against the nuclear radiation coming from the Sun, which is extremely important to commercial satellites, commercial systems on the ground, and is especially important to our military warning satellites.

We are fortunate there is a satellite that was put up in the late 1990s. Its acronym is ACE. It had a design life of 5 years, which would have been the early 2000s. This little satellite keeps producing. It measures the solar wind, or nuclear radiation, coming from the Sun about every 40 minutes. It was supposed to have been dead years ago. It is still perking.

This satellite will replace it and will warn us of a nuclear blast—not every 40 minutes but much more rapidly, like every 1 or 2 minutes, which will give us the ability to save our systems on the ground and in orbit. That is one instrument.

Now, since this payload will be at a neutrally buoyant point where the Earth's gravitational pull stops and the Sun's gravitational pull stops—called the Lagrangian Point No. 1, or L–1, between the Earth and the Sun—which is a little less than 1 million miles from the Earth, and because the gravitational pull of the Sun is much greater—it is about 92 million miles from the Sun—it will stay there and constantly look at the Sun in one direction, and in the other direction it looks at the Earth.

These are the other two instruments. One instrument will constantly measure the heat coming from the Sun that is being absorbed by the Earth, and that instrument then also measures the amount of heat that is reflected off of the Earth and radiated back out into space.

So if you want to measure exactly how the Earth is heating up, you get this very precise measurement of what is being absorbed minus what is being radiated back out into space, and you will know exactly how much heat the Earth is absorbing and how this planet is heating up.

The final instrument is one that was conceived of by then-Vice President Al Gore, who at my invitation was there yesterday. I don't know if he is going to be able to stay over until tomorrow to see the launch.

What Al Gore knew was that 42 years ago was the last time we had a full sunlit picture of the Earth. It was by the Apollo 17 astronauts on the face of the moon. They got the Earth just at the exact time. They were able to photograph one-half of the Earth, which was lit by the Sun behind the astronauts on the moon. That was the last time we had a full, live picture of the Earth.

We have had many other pictures, but what they are is a strip here and a snippet there, and they are all stitched together—even though they were taken at different times—to make a composite of what the Earth looks like.

What the satellite Discovery will do, as its camera looks straight back at Earth, taking about 13 photographs in a 24-hour period, since the satellite is between the Earth and the Sun, it is able to look back with the telephoto lens and it will always see the sunlit side of the entire side of the Earth as it rotates on its axis every 24 hours and as it rotates around the Sun every 365 days. That will give us a new perspective of the overview effect of what this home that we call planet Earth is and what it looks like on a daily basis every 2 hours.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, the Keystone legislation is likely to move to the President's desk this week after the House takes it up, and he will veto it. The votes are not there to override a veto, either in the Senate or the House. Legislation has a natural lifecycle, and this piece of legislation is reaching the end of its lifecycle. This debate is almost over.

So where are we when it comes to American energy policy? The debate that occurred on Keystone was no doubt an important one, but it was exactly upside down. Congress and the media treated the Keystone bill as if it would settle American energy policy once and for all, when in fact it was and is a tiny sliver of debate. American energy policy is not defined by one project or one piece of infrastructure, however contentious it may be.

In order to have a real energy conversation, we have to agree on the facts, and this body cannot be the only place where there is a lack of consensus on the basic facts. That is why Senator WHITEHOUSE's amendment, my amendment, Senator HOEVEN's amendment, and those of many others were so important.

Last month's climate votes were illuminating and encouraging. First, Senator WHITEHOUSE's language, which simply stated that climate change was not a hoax, received a nearly unanimous vote. Believe it or not, that is progress. My amendment, which stated that climate change is real, caused by humans, and has real and significant impacts, received a bare majority of the votes, with five Republicans supporting it. Senator HOEVEN's amendment had similar language, as well as some pro-Keystone language, and it attracted a dozen or so Republican votes.

What is the significance of all of this? It is very simple. Without acknowledging the problem, we cannot even begin to work on it. The wall of denial has begun to crack. So now we have a majority—and depending on how it is phrased, even a potential supermajority—in the Senate saying that climate change is real.

Now, most every serious person in public life either admits the basic facts of climate change or is on their way to getting there, and that is a good thing. Now the question is: What should we do? Given our regional differences, ideological differences, and the partisan divide, what comes next?

Later this year or next, we will see efforts to repeal a number of important environmental rules, especially the administration's clean power plan, which will regulate carbon pollution from existing and new powerplants, but that too is highly unlikely to result in anything other than a Presidential veto.

So are there any areas for potential common ground?

I think we saw real glimmers of hope and possibility during the Keystone debate. Several of my Republican colleagues made the argument during the debate on Keystone that while climate change is a real problem, we must be aware of how energy costs influence economic activity.

I could not agree more. We don't hear this often from folks on my side of the debate, but price matters. No climate policy is a real solution unless it strengthens both the national and global economies. As we pursue clean energy, we must understand its impacts on consumers—especially individuals and families in lower income communities—as well as businesses. We miss an opportunity to find common ground if we move too quickly past the questions of cost and the social and economic context in which this transition is going to occur.

We can contend with these challenges in Congress through a legislative solution. We can create incentives, create market-based mechanisms, look at regional differences, and fund R&D to help develop new and less-expensive solutions. EPA certainly has the authority and the obligation under the law to regulate carbon and other greenhouse gases. I support the President's Clean Power Plan because carbon pollution is real and it ought to be regulated under the Clean Air Act. If we want to be more comprehensive and if we want to be more nuanced and more flexible and more responsive to communities, we need a bill. Structured properly, a bill has the advantage of creating economically efficient solutions that can reduce carbon pollution from a much wider range of sources. That is why a well-designed fee on carbon is critical for our economy and our environment.

I understand the politics are nearly impossible right now, but if we think

about our ability as legislators to remunerate communities struggling during a transition, to ameliorate certain economic challenges, we may agree that legislating provides us the tools to achieve greater pollution reductions at a much lower social and economic cost. So once the Clean Power Plan is established, once it is litigated, and once it is full-on reality, I believe there may be room for compromise.

One more point on the issue of price. We have to do our calculations on an all-in basis. That includes tax expenditures, environmental damage, health impacts, and other so-called externalities. There is plenty of good research which indicates that clean energy technology is already competitive with fossil fuel technology when all costs are added in. Additionally, the cost of solar, wind, and energy efficiency is dropping precipitously and in many places is competing successfully in the free market, even before we consider the costs of pollution.

We will have a couple of battles that are unavoidable—on the Clean Power Plan and likely another run at Keystone—but there are a couple of areas that in my view don't have to be a battle. They are energy efficiency and energy research.

We ought to start with the Shaheen-Portman energy efficiency legislation. I have little doubt that Democrats would support this as a stand-alone bill. Energy efficiency is just common sense, and the energy experts remind us of an idea our mothers and fathers taught us growing up: waste not, want not. In other words, the straightest line toward saving money for people, businesses, and institutions is to help them adopt the latest energy efficiency practices and technologies.

Even this has unfortunately become a partisan issue in the last several Congresses with people worried that light bulb efficiency standards were part of some Orwellian plot. But that is not what these Department of Energy standards do, and it is not what Shaheen-Portman does.

At its core, energy efficiency is simply this: Use less but get the same result. Using less means paying less. Getting the same result means not having to sacrifice our way of life. The idea is not to ask people to do without, the idea is to just get more for our money. It is an old-school, conservative idea. Of course the Shaheen-Portman bill doesn't cost the taxpayers a dime, and projections are that it will create nearly 200,000 jobs.

I also think there is a lot of room for good bipartisan work in advanced technology research in the energy space—the kind the Department of Energy did for the State of Hawaii in developing a grid system that can accommodate unprecedented levels of intermittent renewable energy, the kind that made major advances in hydraulic fracturing, the kind that has helped the price of solar panels drop 80 percent since 2008, the kind that is making breakthroughs in battery storage, which has fallen in price by 40 percent since 2010, and the kind that is working on carbon capture and sequestration.

America must lead on energy, and that requires us to do the kind of basic research that private companies can eventually use. A relatively small increase in research funding—both on the fossil and renewable side—has been shown to make an enormous impact on our economy. Investments in renewable and fossil fuel electricity generation, distribution, and transmission systems, grid stability and security, and fuel systems will enable America to lead in energy for decades to come.

These are the kinds of investments we would see in a comprehensive energy bill. I was so encouraged last week that the chairwoman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, the Senator from Alaska, has indicated her desire to pursue comprehensive legislation this Congress. The Senator from Alaska is a very skilled bipartisan legislator, and I am looking forward to working with her on these issues. I am especially encouraged by her openness to climate provisions as part of that bill, something she mentioned as recently as last week. Just as she has listened to the concerns I and others have raised about climate change during the Keystone debate, so should we listen to her call for reliable, affordable, clean, and diverse energy supplies.

Several energy proposals contained within the President's fiscal year budget could become a part of a bipartisan bill, including ideas to more fully promote carbon capture and sequestration technologies and protect coal workers and their communities as we transition. The concerns of communities that have coal-based economies are real and legitimate and I believe any true climate solution must prioritize solutions for every American. The President recognized that and proposed $55 million next year to help affected communities diversify their economies, offer job training, and ensure a good transition.

This will require compromise. It will require those of us on the left to concede that fossil fuels aren't going to disappear instantaneously, and it will require those on the right to recognize that investing in clean energy technologies doesn't necessarily mean picking winners and losers. We have wind energy in nearly all States—in fact, more in Republican than in Democratic States—and we have tea party members everywhere who love the freedom and liberty that distributed generation—rooftop solar—offers. We also have clean energy progressives, including myself, who understand that we have to deal with the energy system we have, not the one we wish we had.

The areas I have mentioned are not the only opportunities for bipartisan compromise, but we do need to start a dialogue, either on the floor, in committees or in informal discussions, about what we can actually do. As we consider a policy solution, let's ask the following questions: Can it be enacted into law? Will it advance American energy security? Will it strengthen the economy and provide economic growth? Will it reduce pollution?

There are a few areas where we are going to fight—there is no avoiding it—and that is OK. But there is, for the first time since I arrived, a glimmer of hope that we may be able to find common ground on some of these issues and begin a serious discussion about tackling American energy policy and climate change.

I yield the floor.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, this is the first time I have come to the floor to speak on this issue while the Senator from Iowa has been presiding. Over the last 2 years, since the mass tragedy in my State, in Sandy Hook, CT, I have come to the floor once every week or so to give voice to victims of gun violence all across this country. I have told the story of the beautiful 6- and 7-year-olds as well as the teachers and professionals who were killed that day.

The fact is that every day across this country there are two to three Sandy Hooks that happen. There are 86 people killed by guns every day in this country, 2,600 a month, and over 30,000 a year. The statistics, unfortunately, have not compelled this body to action. We have done nothing—zero—about this national tragedy since Sandy Hook. That is a stain upon the conscience of this body that is impossible to erase. My hope is that by coming to the floor and speaking about who these people actually are, maybe it will prompt us to have a conversation about how we can make sure these numbers aren't eliminated; they are never going to go away but to make sure they are lower, that they are less than these numbers, the highest in the developed world.

Let me speak first about an extraordinary young man, 44 years old, who was killed on January 20—just about 2 weeks ago—in Boston, MA. His name was Dr. Michael Davidson. He was shot by a gunman who walked into Brigham and Women's Hospital. The gunman was the relative of someone who had been under the care of Dr. Davidson who clearly had some major illness that prompted him to think he could solve his grief by shooting the doctor who had cared for his loved one. Dr. Davidson was known at Brigham and Women's Hospital for his gentle way

with patients and their families and his willingness to operate on the most delicate hearts. He used to lie awake at night worrying about his patients. He was always receiving letters about the great care he provided. He wanted to be a cardiovascular surgeon from the time he was a little boy, which is a pretty exceptional thing. As renowned as he was as a physician, what he truly will be remembered for was for being a father to three children, and he and his wife were waiting for their fourth to arrive, due this April.

At his funeral nearly 1,000 people were there to hear his wife say:

> By now, you've all heard that my husband, Michael Davidson, was a superb physician. Perhaps, most importantly, he cared immensely for his patients and their families. That is why the fact that a patient's family member would take Michael away from us makes it all the more devastating.

A brilliant surgeon and a wonderful father taken away from us at age 44 in Boston, MA.

Everyone by now has heard the story from December 20, where two New York City police officers were killed by a mentally ill man who drove to New York with the intention of killing police officers. Wenjian Liu had been in this country almost 20 years to the day—an American dream story personified. His family came to this country from China to seek a better life. He came here on Christmas Eve, 1994. He wanted to be a police officer because he wanted to give back to his community. Liu once said:

> I know that being a cop is dangerous but I must do it. If I don't do it and you don't do it, then who is going to do it?

It is that kind of commitment that was shown by him that day by the very fact that he was in the car. He wasn't scheduled to work, but he volunteered to work a fill-in shift when a fellow officer was late. That is just how he was.

Rafael Ramos, otherwise known as Ralph Ramos, was in that car as well. He wanted to be a police officer so badly that when he was preparing to join the police academy, he took a petition door to door throughout his whole neighborhood asking for his neighbors to testify to his character. He is remembered as a good police officer but also as someone who shoveled all the sidewalks in his neighborhood, took his two boys to a nearby park over and over to play basketball, always with a smile on his face. He was hours away from becoming a lay chaplain. One of his dreams was to go into the ministry. He is remembered by friends and family as someone committed to his family, committed to his job, but also committed to his faith.

These two police officers were killed by a man named Ismaaiyl Brinsley. He was a deeply mentally ill man, someone who had tried to commit suicide and who had become completely isolated from his family and from his peers. When I read his story, it struck me as not completely dissimilar from the story in Newtown, CT, Adam Lanza. Adam Lanza was a deeply troubled, deeply mentally ill young man who became isolated from his peers and from his family. We can't completely understand what caused him to do what he did that day, nor what Mr. Brinsley was thinking in his head when he drove to New York to carry out those heinous murders.

What we know is we have largely abandoned the mentally ill in this country. We lock them up in prisons rather than treating their underlying illnesses. Over the course of the last half a decade, 4,000 inpatient psychiatric beds have been closed all across this country, forcing more of the mentally ill out on the streets and into prison and into crisis. You know, the Federal law authorizing the funding we send to mental health work in this country—SAMHSA, that is the agency—has not been reauthorized in a decade. We haven't even debated mental health policy on the floor of this Senate for a decade. No wonder we have a system that is in crisis.

It means in the absence of Federal leadership, private organizations are stepping up to the plate. Sandy Hook promised—the group of parents of many of those children who were killed has taken up a cause called No One Eats Alone. It is a wonderful cause in which students in high school, middle school, and elementary school cafeterias are asked to seek out one or two children who often eat alone, who are socially isolated at school, and to reach out and do small things such as sitting with them during lunch to remove some sense of social isolation that comes often with children who bring mental illness or learning disabilities to school.

That effort is admirable, and it will make a difference. But it speaks to the fact those groups have to step in and do things such as the No One Eats Alone campaign because Congress isn't stepping up to the plate and doing anything about these numbers: 31,000 a year, 2,600 a month, 86 a day. You know what my feelings are on this. I don't think it is just about mental health programming and funding. I think it is ridiculous 90 percent of Americans think you should have to go through a background check in order to buy a gun, yet we still won't move forward with expanded background checks, and the majority of Americans think that dangerous assault weapons should be for the police and for our military and not be able to get into the hands of young, troubled men such as Adam Lanza to be used in mass murder.

In the absence over the next 2 years of our ability to come to an agreement on changing our gun laws so they reflect where the vast majority of the American public is, let's at least take on the mental health crisis in this country. Let's at least decide we are going to plus-up resources for community mental health providers. We are going to rebuild inpatient capacity. We are going to recognize that as angry as we are at people such as Ismaaiyl Brinsley and of young men such as Adam Lanza, there is a story there of neglect that if we address we can lower these numbers even without changes over the next 2 years in our—I would argue—very backward national background check laws.

I thank you for listening and some of my colleagues for being on the floor today. I know we have a number of people who want to speak. I will continue to come to the floor so my colleagues can hear the stories of people such as Officer Ramos, Officer Liu, and heroes such as Dr. Michael Davidson so that maybe the voices of these victims can prompt us to action.

I yield the floor.

## AUTHORIZATION ON USE OF MILITARY FORCE

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, along with Senator HATCH, we have a concern we want to share with this body. One of the reasons I do is because I had planned to go ahead and introduce the bill having to do with the AUMF. In fact, I actually had introduced it a year ago, but I understand now we are coming into an agreement and Senator HATCH and I stand together to speak about the need for the new AUMF, authorization for use of military force, against the terrorist organization known as ISIS or ISIL, or whatever you want to call it, in order to answer any legal question as to the authority the President has to defend the American people and demonstrate our commitment to the global coalition in defeating this radical Islamic organization.

I have always contended the President had this authority anyway. In fact, I can remember a year ago he said he did. I now understand the President will be sending to Congress his own version of the AUMF this week. I will read it with interest.

Over the past 6 months, ISIS, or ISIL, has expanded its control in Iraq and Syria. They continue to recruit followers worldwide. We saw just the other day what happened when we had the King of Jordan here and we had the opportunity to be with him when he got the very sad news of what happened to his F–16 pilot being burned alive. I happened to be with him in Syria just a month before that. I am talking about with the King of Jordan.

We know firsthand what is going on. It is my hope the President's proposed AUMF will include all the authorities needed to execute his strategy to stop ISIS and the President provides Congress with that strategy as part of any approval for an AUMF.

The President's proposed AUMF should not contain restrictions on U.S. forces or time or geographic limitations. An AUMF should authorize the use of all necessary and appropriate force anywhere where ISIS or any successor organization is operating until we accomplish our strategy.

At the State of the Union speech last month, President Obama specifically said—and I am quoting now:

> I call on this Congress to show the world that we are united in this mission by passing a resolution to authorize the use of force against ISIL. We need that authority.

That was a quote from his State of the Union Message. Quite frankly, he had already stated before he had that authority. I am not going to argue about that. Let's just make sure to eliminate all doubts.

Subsequent official White House statements have called for a ''right-sized, modernized AUMF...it would send a powerful signal to the citizens of this country, the citizens of our allies, and to our enemies.''

It was on January 23 that the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Dempsey said—and I am going to quote General Dempsey's entire quote because I think he is the No. 1 guy. He is the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the one who should be the best qualified to make these decisions.

He said:

> I think in the crafting of the AUMF, all options should be on the table, and then we can debate whether we want to use them. But the authorization should be there...In particular, it shouldn't constrain activities geographically, because ISIL knows no boundaries, [and] doesn't recognize any boundaries—in fact it's their intention to erase all boundaries to their benefit. Constraints on time, or a ''sunset clause,'' I just don't think it's necessary. I think the nation should speak of its intent to confront this radical ideological barbaric group and leave the option until we can deal with it.

That is all a quote from General Martin Dempsey, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. I think we need to listen to it. I don't think the immediate need for an AUMF could be put more clearly or succinctly than General Dempsey's words, and it is my hope he was intimately involved in the drafting of the administration's AUMF.

It is my understanding we will see this tomorrow. Again, I, along with many colleagues—including my good friend from Utah—look forward to reading President Obama's AUMF. We have to get rid of this monster.

With that, I yield to my good friend from Utah.

## NATIONAL SECURITY CHALLENGES

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

MR. HATCH. Madam President, today I rise with my friend, the senior Senator from Oklahoma, to discuss some of the most pressing national security issues the Senate is poised to confront. These matters include the confirmation of Ashton Carter as Secretary of Defense, whose nomination I strongly support; and Senator AYOTTE's Guantanamo Bay detainee transfer bill, of which I am a cosponsor. Indeed, I applaud the expeditious consideration of Senator AYOTTE's bill in the Armed Services Committee under the leadership of Senator MCCAIN.

These moves come at a critically important time as we continue to witness the spectacles of barbarism perpetrated by the so-called Islamic State, or ISIS—aid workers and journalists gruesomely beheaded; Christians tortured and murdered for refusing to convert; and most recently, a captured coalition pilot burned alive.

These acts are just a glimpse of the undiluted savagery unleashed by this terrorist organization on the large swath of territory in Iraq and Syria that it controls. Even beyond its horrific human rights violations, the Islamic State threatens to destabilize the entire Middle East and it is attempting to undo all that was accomplished by our servicemembers in 8 years of blood and sacrifice in Iraq.

Most troubling of all, the Islamic State serves as a safe haven for terrorist training and planning, similar to Afghanistan prior to the September 11 attacks. With the Islamic State's stated intention to ''raise the flag of Allah in the White House'' and kill ''hundreds of millions'' in a worldwide ''religious cleansing,'' there can be no doubt this organization poses a clear and present danger to the national security of the United States and to our allies, not only in the Middle East but throughout the world. Accordingly, we must fight and defeat this dangerous terrorist organization.

It is therefore incumbent upon us as legislators to ensure we provide all the tools necessary for defeating the enemy. Personally, I agree with the Obama administration's previous determination that the President has ample powers to conduct operations against the Islamic State under article II of the Constitution as well as the existing authorizations for the use of military force passed by Congress in 2001 against Al Qaeda and the Taliban in 2002 for Iraq. Nevertheless, I agree with the President that Congress should authorize the use of force against the Islamic State, not only to put to rest any legal questions about the President's power to use force, but also to demonstrate to the world America's resolve in this fight against terror.

If we are to pass a new authorization for use of military force, it is critically important to ensure that this new law is properly crafted. It will define against whom and under what conditions our Nation may direct its national might.

Therefore, Senator INHOFE and I feel compelled to propose general principles that we believe should guide this effort, especially since it appears the President will send his own draft to Congress shortly. Senator INHOFE and I are offering these thoughts with no intention to undermine careful consideration of the President's proposal by the Senate's national security committees.

Furthermore, we do not at all wish to complicate the efforts to reach consensus by laying down demands. Far from it. Rather, our intent is to facilitate the legislative process by outlining some of the elements we believe to be most crucial for ensuring the success of our servicemembers as they confront this great evil.

First, the authorization should clearly articulate that the executive branch is authorized to use force—employed in accordance with the law of armed conflict—against the Islamic State.

Second, the authorization should be flexible enough to be utilized not only against the Islamic State as it appears today, but also in whatever form the organization takes going forward. This flexibility should also include the authority to use force against organizations that are associated with or materially supporting the Islamic State.

Finally, and most importantly, the authorization should not impose any artificial and unnecessary limitations—such as those based on time, geography, and type of force—that could interfere with our strategic objective of defeating the Islamic State.

Unfortunately, many have suggested including such artificial limitations on the use of force in a future authorization. Specifically, many have discussed prohibiting the use of ground forces as well as providing an expiration date for the authorization. These are restrictions the Islamic State could use to its advantage. If we are telling the Islamic State upfront we will not use ground forces, will they not tailor their strategy around that fact? If we advertise when the authorization expires at an arbitrary date and time, will they not hunker down and wait for that date? Why would we not only unilaterally impose limitations as to which types of tools and tactics our servicemembers can use, but then also broadcast those limitations to the enemy?

Indeed, we believe that Congress and the President should heed the advice of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Martin Dempsey, who stated in an interview on January 23, 2015, that:

> I think in the crafting of the AUMF, all options should be on the table, and then we can debate whether we want to use them. But the authorization should be there. . . . In particular, it shouldn't constrain activities geographically, because ISIL knows no boundaries [and] doesn't recognize any boundaries—in fact it's their intention to erase all boundaries to their benefit. . . . Constraints on time, or a ''sunset clause,'' I just don't think it's necessary. I think the nation should speak of its intent to confront this radical ideological barbaric group and leave the option until we can deal with it.

Senators INHOFE and I could not agree more. We hope the Congress will enact a new authorization based on the principles we are outlining here today. I want to thank him. I hope our colleagues will take this seriously and hopefully we can turn this mess around.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

## NOMINATION OF MICHAEL P. BOTTICELLI TO BE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Michael P. Botticelli, of the District of Columbia, to be Director of National Drug Control Policy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 30 minutes of debate equally divided.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Millions of American families are struggling with an unrelenting addiction to controlled substances. This is nothing new and that is the unfortunate part about it. But after decades of taking the wrong path toward treating drug abuse, it appears that we are finally in the midst of a fundamental shift in the way we are going to focus and approach this issue.

For years we simply considered drug abuse as a crime, to be dealt with by police, prosecutors, and prisons. There is now, however, a near consensus that addiction must be viewed as a public health issue. This requires coordinated investments in prevention and treatment. Law enforcement agencies would rather not arrest the same offenders over and over without dealing with the underlying addiction. Treating that addiction—rather than just punishing the addict—is often the more effective, more humane, and less costly approach.

There is perhaps no greater advocate for this shift in thinking than Michael Botticelli. Throughout his career in public health he has worked to bridge gaps between law enforcement, health care, and education providers. As acting director for the Office of National Drug Control Policy, ONDCP, he has made clear that we cannot ''incarcerate addiction out of people.'' While law enforcement will always play a vital role in protecting citizens from drug-related crime, Mr. Botticelli recognizes that addiction is a disease—one that can be successfully prevented and treated using the same evidence-based approach we use for other public health challenges.

Mr. Botticelli's nomination was reported out of the Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously by voice vote last year and again last week. I am pleased that he continued to receive strong, bipartisan support from the full Senate here today. As director of ONDCP, Mr. Botticelli will help to coordinate drug-control activities across the Federal Government. This includes critical efforts such as administering funding for Drug-Free Communities grants and High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas. It is no small task. Just last week, the President requested over $12 billion for demand reduction programs. This represents the largest commitment to treating and preventing drug addiction in our Nation's history, and it is badly needed.

Much of the country is now confronting a rising challenge: addiction to heroin and powerful painkillers. My home State of Vermont has not been spared, and it has attracted much attention for its struggles with opioid abuse. In fact, the film ''The Hungry Heart'' provides a powerful portrayal of the damage this addiction has inflicted on Vermont families. I was honored to host a screening of this moving film with Michael Botticelli last May.

However in many ways, Vermont is ahead of the Nation. We in Vermont long ago recognized the problem and began developing new approaches to address it. Dedicated Vermonters working in the traditional roles of prevention, treatment, and law enforcement came together around common goals and shared strategies. These community partnerships have produced innovative and successful programs such as the Rapid Intervention Community Court in Burlington, and Project VISION in Rutland. Last year, the Judiciary Committee held a hearing in Vermont on this issue. As a lifelong Vermonter, what hit me is how everybody came together for this hearing—Republicans, Democrats, Independents, law enforcement, defense counsels, clergy, teachers, medical professionals, parents and often those who have been abusers. We all realize there is no single answer, but we can do it better than we have for decades.

First responders are saving the lives of addicts throughout the State by carrying naloxone. This will save their life instead of some who would die of an overdose. Evidence-based prevention and treatment services have been extended to all corners of Vermont, and barriers to recovery have been significantly reduced. That is the most important part.

These are all strategies that the ONDCP promotes. Mr. Botticelli understands that success requires an increased commitment to early intervention and education, treatment, and smart criminal justice policies. While the scope of the challenge is immense, Mr. Botticelli has us going in the right direction. Having listened to him, having talked to him, I am really hopeful he will help get us ahead of addiction, and help end the misery it inflicts on individuals, families, and our communities. I urge my fellow Senators to vote for his immediate confirmation.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I wish to express my strong support for Michael Botticelli as nominee to be the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Mr. Botticelli has more than two decades of experience supporting those who have been affected by substance use and abuse.

Prior to joining the Office of National Drug Control Policy in 2012, when he was confirmed as the Deputy Director, Mr. Botticelli served as the director of the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

While there, he expanded prevention, treatment, and recovery services, and worked to implement evidence-based programs, including a youth treatment system, early intervention and treatment programs, and overdose prevention programs.

During Mr. Botticelli's tenure as director of the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services, he confronted the issues of heroin and prescription drug abuse head-on and worked to ensure that police officers in Quincy, MA were trained and equipped to resuscitate overdose victims using naloxone, an emergency opioid overdose reversal medication.

Since October 2010, Quincy police officers have administered naloxone 220 times, almost always resulting in successful overdose reversal. This program has been replicated in communities throughout the country.

As chairman of the Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control, I had the opportunity to work closely with Mr. Botticelli during his time as Deputy Director and Acting Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Most recently, Mr. Botticelli testified at a hearing I chaired to address America's addiction to prescription opioids and heroin, where he emphasized the need for increased prescriber education to reduce prescription drug abuse and expanded access to naloxone nationwide.

In addition, Mr. Botticelli has committed to working with my office to address the import, manufacture, and distribution of dangerous synthetic drugs, which take far too many lives, far too early. At a previous hearing on the topic, he provided valuable insight into the threat that synthetic drugs pose and it is my hope that we can continue to work together as the Senate considers legislation to address this threat.

Mr. Botticelli has also been very clear about the fact that marijuana remains illegal under the Federal Controlled Substances Act, and has done much to disavow the notion that marijuana is harmless.

As a person in recovery himself, Mr. Botticelli brings a unique perspective to the Office of National Drug Control Policy. I believe this perspective will enable him to successfully implement a national drug control strategy that recognizes the need for both supply and demand reduction and appropriately incorporates an effective public health approach that is coupled with law enforcement efforts.

I look forward to continuing to work with Mr. Botticelli as he leads the Office of National Drug Control Policy in implementing a whole of government approach to combatting illegal and illicit drug use.

I believe Michael Botticelli will serve with distinction as the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, and I urge my colleagues to confirm his nomination.

Mr. LEAHY. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Michael P. Botticelli, of the District of Columbia, to be Director of National Drug Control Policy?

Mr. ENZI. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 92, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 54 Ex.]

YEAS—92

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Alexander | Blunt | Cantwell |
| Ayotte | Booker | Capito |
| Baldwin | Boozman | Cardin |
| Barrasso | Boxer | Carper |
| Bennet | Brown | Casey |
| Blumenthal | Burr | Cassidy |
| Coats | Hirono | Portman |
| Collins | Inhofe | Reed |
| Coons | Isakson | Reid |
| Corker | Johnson | Risch |
| Cornyn | Kaine | Rounds |
| Cotton | King | Rubio |
| Crapo | Kirk | Sanders |
| Cruz | Klobuchar | Sasse |
| Daines | Lankford | Schatz |
| Donnelly | Leahy | Schumer |
| Durbin | Lee | Scott |
| Enzi | Manchin | Sessions |
| Ernst | Markey | Shaheen |
| Feinstein | McCaskill | Shelby |
| Fischer | McConnell | Stabenow |
| Flake | Menendez | Sullivan |
| Franken | Merkley | Tester |
| Gardner | Mikulski | Thune |
| Gillibrand | Murkowski | Tillis |
| Graham | Murphy | Udall |
| Grassley | Murray | Warner |
| Hatch | Nelson | Warren |
| Heinrich | Paul | Whitehouse |
| Heitkamp | Perdue | Wyden |
| Heller | Peters | |

NOT VOTING—8

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Cochran | Moran | Vitter |
| Hoeven | Roberts | Wicker |
| McCain | Toomey | |

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

The majority leader.

## MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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 PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## CELEBRATING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today in celebration of the Lunar New Year, an important and festive holiday for people of Asian and Pacific Islander heritage around the world. Lunar New Year celebrations not only sustain important cultural traditions that have been practiced for centuries, but also provide a moment to reflect upon the many contributions made by the Asian and Pacific Islander community in Nevada and across the globe.

In my home State of Nevada, the Asian American community is among the fastest growing in the United States. From 2000 to 2010, the Asian American population in Nevada more than doubled. Chinese Americans, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders have greatly enriched Nevada's history and culture, and I am pleased to stand today in recognition of these communities as they prepare for the upcoming festivities.

This year, families and communities in Nevada and across the world will welcome the Year of the Sheep, and I offer my warmest wishes for peace and prosperity in the coming year.

## WHO'S THE BOSS? THE ''JOINT EMPLOYER'' STANDARD, AMERICAN SMALL BUSINESSES AND EMPLOYMENT GROWTH

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of my remarks at the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee hearing last week be printed in the RECORD.

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

WHO'S THE BOSS? THE ''JOINT EMPLOYER'' STANDARD, AMERICAN SMALL BUSINESSES AND EMPLOYMENT GROWTH

This morning we are having a hearing about who qualifies as a joint employer in the National Labor Relations Board's view.

This hearing this morning is about a pending National Labor Relations Board decision that could destroy a small business opportunity for more than 700,000 Americans. These men and women are franchisees. They operate health clubs, barber shops, auto parts shops, child care centers, neighborhood restaurants, music stores, cleaning services, and much more. They use the brand name of companies like Planet Fitness, Merry Maids or Panera Bread. They may work 12 hours a day serving customers, meeting a payroll, dealing with government regulations, paying taxes, and trying to make a profit.

We live at a time when Democrats and Republicans bemoan the fact that it's getting harder and harder to climb the economic ladder of success in our country. Successfully operating a franchise business is today one of the most important ways to do that. Why would the pending decision by the National Labor Relations Board threaten this very American way of life, knocking the ladder out from under hundreds of thousands of Americans? The board and its General Counsel are pursuing a change to what is called the ''joint employer'' standard. This standard, or test, has since 1984 required that for a business to be considered a joint employer, it must hold direct control over the terms and conditions of a worker's employment—to decide that, the NLRB looks at who hires and fires, sets work hours, picks uniforms, issues directions to employees, determines compensation, handles day to day supervision, and conducts recordkeeping.

Under the changes the NLRB is now considering, it would take just indirect control over the employees' terms and conditions of employment, or even unexercised potential to control working conditions, or where ''industrial realities'' otherwise made it essential to meaningful collective bargaining.

So what could this mean for these more than 700,000 franchisees and employers? These franchise companies will find it much more practical to own all their stores and restaurants and day care centers themselves. There will be many more company-owned outposts, rather than franchisee-owned small businesses.

Franchisees tell me they expect ''franchisors would be compelled to try to establish control over staffing decisions and daily operations. . . . franchisees would lose their independence and become de facto employees of the franchisor.''

This case doesn't just affect franchisees, it will affect every business that uses a subcontractor or contracts out for any service.

That includes most of the 5.7 million businesses under NLRB jurisdiction in America—because most businesses contract for some service.

Consider a local bicycle shop that contracts out its cleaning service under a cost plus provision, in which the cleaner is paid for all of its expenses to a certain limit, plus a profit. If this arrangement is interpreted to create ''indirect control'' or have ''unexercised potential'' over working conditions—they could trigger joint employer obligations. Same thing with a local restaurant that outsources all of its baked goods under a contract that includes penalties for being late or delivering substandard goods—it could be considered a joint employer of the bakery employees.

What does it mean to be a joint employer?

First, you are required to engage in collective bargaining, and are on the hook for all of the agreements made in collective bargaining, such as salaries, healthcare coverage, and pension obligations. It often takes weeks or months of an employer's time and hefty legal costs to negotiate agreements.

Being considered a joint employer also eliminates protection from what are called ''secondary boycotts.'' Current law does not allow a union to boycott companies that do business with their employer in an attempt to apply to pressure to their employer. If the secondary company is instead deemed a joint employer, the union will be able to picket and boycott.

Imagine being an employer and having these legal, financial and time burdens placed upon you by a union representing employees you have no real control over.

Let me give another example—we have several large auto manufacturing plants in my home state of Tennessee. Let's say one of those plants has a few thousand employees, but thousands of other workers come in and out of the plant's gates every day to provide goods and services the facility needs to operate.

These workers are employed and directly controlled by subcontractors that provide security, supply auto parts, and staff the company lunch room. If the NLRB goes down this road, the plant owner could be forced to sit at dozens of different collective bargaining tables—and be responsible for another employer's obligations.

So the manufacturer would likely take as much ''in house'' as it can—and if that move comes at the cost of efficiency and innovation the plant could be relocated elsewhere. This example is especially concerning to me because more than 100,000 Tennesseans are employed in the auto manufacturing industry.

As for the subcontractors, they would be losing huge clients, which would in turn jeopardize more jobs and threaten these businesses' futures.

Most business owners are people who wanted to run their own business, be their own boss, and live their dream of providing a much-needed service in their community.

This pending decision would ruin that dream for many.

## WEST JEFFERSON, NORTH CAROLINA

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to the town of West Jefferson, NC. Today, February 9 is the 100th anniversary of the charter of this historical town that has become a vibrant community attracting tourists, artists, entrepreneurs, retirees and young families.

Development of rural farmland into a town resulted from extending a railroad line into it. Construction of roadbeds and trestles for the steel rails took place in 1914, and depots were created as loading spots. When people of this area learned that the railroad was coming, speculators made investments in villages that would be affected. A new village was also created. The West Jefferson Land Company mapped a farming area in a valley between two mountains and sold lots for commercial and residential uses. Developers and their purchasers were ready when the first train arrived. The West Jefferson depot was central and most prominent. As part of its official recognition by the State Legislature in 1915, the town acquired for its governance a mayor and aldermen.

Passenger service was added by the railroad company and enjoyed by many. Then, as the years went by, personal automobiles, paved roads, freight trucks and passenger buses created new transportation options. There were no more large tracts of virgin timber to be harvested. Railroad operation declined in profitability and the end came in 1977. The rails were taken up and trains became a romantic memory for the people of West Jefferson. Trains remain today as images which we see in the local history museum diorama and in some of the beautiful murals on downtown buildings. Murals, galleries, studios and dynamic programs now identify West Jefferson as an arts community, enhancing its image as a desirable place in which to live.

The town of West Jefferson has received many accolades for its business and family-friendly environment, low cost of living, lively rebirth of its downtown district, and many other aspects. I join the fine people of West Jefferson as its citizens and leaders celebrate this historic 100th anniversary.

# ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

## TRIBUTE TO GENE BESS

• Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I wish to honor Coach Gene Bess of Three Rivers College in Poplar Bluff, MO. As a coach for Three Rivers College, Gene has had an amazing career that has spanned four decades. During that time, he has maintained a winning percentage of 78 percent with an average of 27 wins per year. He has not had a losing season since becoming Three Rivers College's head coach in 1971.

Coach Bess has led the Three Rivers College Raiders to 17 tournament appearances in the National Junior College Athletic Association, NJCAA tournament, where his career record is 41–19. The Raiders have reached the Final Four of the NJCAA tournament nine times, while winning national championships in 1979 and 1992.

Gene has been recognized as the NJCAA Coach of the Year twice, the Regional Coach of the Year on 18 occasions, and the Midwest Community College Athletic Conference Coach of the Year 19 times. He is a member of the Poplar Bluff Sports Hall of Fame, the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame, and the NJCAA Hall of Fame.

Coach Bess is one of the best basketball coaches to ever blow a whistle in college basketball, and this month, he became the first college basketball coach ever to reach 1,200 victories. This is a tremendous feat for a coach in any sport, at any level.

Prior to his record-setting career at Three Rivers College, Coach Bess had a very successful record at the high school level when coaching at Lesterville, Anniston, and Oran. Over a 12-year period, these Bess-era teams won over 250 games, ending in appropriate fashion with his Oran team playing for the Missouri Class M State Championship. Oran lost that game 76–74, yet the Bess legacy was only beginning.

The leadership and dedication that Gene Bess demonstrates as a basketball coach, does not stop on the court. Instead, it translates into his personal and public life. He has been married for nearly 54 years and is a deacon at the First Baptist Church of Poplar Bluff. He and his wife Nelda have two children, Janell Hartmann and Brian, one of the Raiders' assistant coaches, and four grandchildren. Faith and family always come before his work, and this is just one secret to his success.

I ask that all of my colleagues join me in congratulating Coach Bess and the Three Rivers Raiders on this rare milestone of 1,200 victories, a record that is unsurpassed at any level.•

## TRIBUTE TO HELENE GALEN

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I wish to take this opportunity to recognize my great friend and an extraordinary philanthropist in my State, Helene Galen, who was honored over the weekend with the Desert AIDS Project's ''100 Women Award.'' Helene's immense contributions throughout California—especially in her beloved Coachella Valley—have left a legacy that will benefit the people of our State for decades to come.

She has worked tirelessly to fight child abuse through the Barbara Sinatra Children's Center for almost 30 years. Her strong support for Jewish Family Service of the Desert has provided critical social services to seniors, children and families throughout the area. A devoted advocate for people living with HIV and AIDS, she has been a leader of the Desert AIDS Project's ''100 Women'' program, which supports women and children affected by HIV and AIDS with food, housing and life-saving health care.

Whenever Helene sees an unmet need, she doesn't wait for someone else to step up. She jumps in with all her heart and all her passion. She led the effort to build a new performing arts center and theater at Rancho Mirage High School, which will ensure that generations of young people can pursue

their dreams. A longtime member of the University of Southern California School of Fine Arts' Board of Councilors, Helene and her late husband, Louis, were the driving force behind the construction of USC's Galen Center, an arena that opened in 2006 and has provided the community an incredible venue for sporting events, concerts, and school activities.

A former executive in the retail industry, Helene has used her financial savvy and management experience to benefit a host of charities and institutions. She has served on the boards of the Eisenhower Medical Center, the Palm Springs Art Museum, the McCallum Theatre, and the Palm Springs International Film Festival.

A devoted mother and grandmother, Helene truly embodies the saying in the Jewish tradition, ''Whoever saves a life, it is as if that person has saved the whole world.'' Without a doubt, Helene's work has saved countless lives, and her impact will be felt in California for many years to come.●

## RECOGNIZING THE ENERGY INNOVATION LABORATORY

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I wish to commend the Idaho National Lab's Energy Innovation Laboratory, EIL, for the facility's selection as the 2014 Best Green Project in the Nation by the Engineering News-Record.

The recent award is among the growing list of recognitions the EIL is receiving for the innovative work at the lab. Engineering News-Record also recognized EIL as the Best Overall Intermountain Project for the States of Idaho, Utah and Montana. Additionally, EIL won the 2014 Go Beyond Award for the team's work to reduce the lab's environmental impacts. The lab is also among fewer than 5 percent of U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, LEED, registry research labs to be Platinum-certified.

EIL was completed in 2013 following the outstanding work of the EIL project team, led by Reed Miller of Ormond Builders and Kath Williams, the LEED coordinator, and in collaboration with INL's Project Management Office, Supply Chain Management and Campus Development Office. The new laboratory provides space for INL researchers to develop solutions to national energy challenges in advanced clean energy and related environmental science while also consolidating some of INL's research and development. I commend all those on the project team-including Ormond Builders Inc.; INL; Plan One/Architects; REL Facilities, LLC; Engineering System Solutions; and others—for their collaborative and conscientious work to establish this exceptional research facility that is mindful of our environment.

Energy efficiencies at the facility have resulted in its energy use being nearly half that of other conventially-designed laboratories. In addition to its impressive energy savings, the facility's design also reduces its water usage. Nearly all of the construction waste was recycled, reused or repurposed, and one-third of the facility was constructed using recycled materials.

Idahoans are leading the way in developing technological and scientific advancements that are beneficial around the world. The exceptional research and development being conducted at the Idaho National Laboratory is an asset to our State and Nation. I commend all those on the EIL project team for their forward-thinking work. Congratulations on receiving this award. I look forward to continuing to follow your success.●

## TRIBUTE TO DR. OLIVIA J. HOOKER

● Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to Dr. Olivia J. Hooker, a leader whose commitment to service has lifted the lives of many Americans. As the first African American woman to serve in Active Duty in the U.S. Coast Guard, and as a survivor of the Tulsa Race Riots and founder of the Tulsa Race Riot Commission, Dr. Hooker is a pioneer and role model for all to follow. I am especially proud to recognize Dr. Hooker on her centennial birthday.

During this momentous occasion, we celebrate the legacy of Dr. Olivia J. Hooker, whose strength and spirit have enriched our society.

Dr. Hooker was born in Oklahoma in 1915. In 1921, her community in Tulsa was destroyed in the worst race riot in United States history. The Tulsa Race Riot caused over 300 fatalities, as well as the burning of over 1,000 homes and businesses.

Following the riot, Dr. Hooker helped found the Tulsa Race Riot Commission. The commission served to draft recommendations for restitution. The advocacy of Dr. Hooker and her allies led them to testify before the Oklahoma State Legislature and U.S. Congress.

Dr. Hooker attended The Ohio State University after her family moved to Columbus, OH. After earning a bachelor's degree, Dr. Hooker applied to join the Navy, but was denied because of her race. Dr. Hooker then applied to join the Coast Guard, and became the first African American female to serve there. In 1942, Federal legislation created the U.S. Coast Guard Women's Reserve—the program known as SPAR. Dr. Hooker separated from the Coast Guard at the rank of petty officer 2nd class, with a Good Conduct Medal.

Dr. Hooker went on to earn her master's degree from Teachers College at Columbia University, and then a doctorate in psychology from the University of Rochester. Dr. Hooker had a long, remarkable career as a professor in New York. After retiring at the age of 87, she continues to inspire and support women joining the military, and believes our country prospers because of its diversity.

Dr. Hooker broke barriers in our Nation. Her story inspires many people who have faced adversity and discrimination. Dr. Hooker's legacy, accomplishments, and spirit will live on in our Nation.●

## RECOGNIZING JON PONDER

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Jon Ponder for his tireless effort in giving others hope for a brighter future. Mr. Ponder has dedicated many years to helping adults exiting various segments of the judicial system successfully reenter the workforce and their local communities, as well as rekindle relationships with their families. He has contributed greatly to the city of Las Vegas by founding HOPE for Prisoners, Inc., HOPE, which gives ex-offenders the support necessary to reduce the likelihood of returning to prison.

Mr. Ponder stands as a shining example of someone who has devoted his life to the betterment of others. He founded HOPE in January of 2012 and has since worked to create a strong program to successfully streamline men and women back into society. The program has graduated over 800 people through its leadership workshop who have gone on to successfully obtain full-time jobs. As founder and CEO, Mr. Ponder has contributed greatly to the success of the program.

HOPE services 12 agencies and offers life-skills training, work-readiness training, and job-development opportunities, encouraging those in the program to work hard to become a positive, contributing member of the community. Mr. Ponder has taken his own life experiences and used them in a positive manner to truly transform the lives of others. His ambition to help others is invaluable. He recently received the Leadership Award from the International Church of Las Vegas, a well-deserved honor for all of his hard work.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Mr. Ponder for his selfless contributions to the Las Vegas community and the individuals that have benefited from HOPE. His service to Nevada places him among the outstanding men and women of the State.

Today, I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in recognizing Mr. Ponder and his work for HOPE, a program with a mission that is both noble and necessary. I am honored to acknowledge Mr. Ponder and his tireless efforts to give others a second chance in Nevada. Giving these men and women the skills to allow them to change their circumstances is admirable, and I wish the program the best of luck in all of its future endeavors.●

## REMEMBERING HENRY LEE FIELDS

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I wish to commemorate a Georgia first responder, public servant and leader, Chief Henry Lee Fields, who passed away on December 28, 2014.

• Chief Fields was born to Eddie Lee and Dorothea Johnson Fields on July 13, 1944, in Dougherty County, GA. He worked hard to graduate from Monroe High School in 1963, and attended Newark Community College before returning home in 1964 and working as an auto mechanic. He and his wife Dorothy Fields had two daughters, Rosalind and Wynne, and he was in the automotive field when he applied for a job at the fire department and found his true calling.

Chief Fields worked his way up the ladder and, in 1991, became the first African-American to serve as chief of the Albany Fire Department in Albany, GA.

During that time, Chief Fields also served in the role of emergency management director, and was confronted with two major floods that devastated the area in 1994 and 1998.

Chief Fields retired in 2000 after touching many lives through his fire safety efforts and through his church, Jordan Grove Missionary Baptist, where he served in many roles.

The Albany Fire Department headquarters appropriately lowered their flags to half-mast during the memorial service for Chief Fields.

Henry Fields was an inspirational leader and his years of service to his community will not be forgotten.•

## TRIBUTE TO DR. NORMAN FRANCIS

• Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I wish to honor Dr. Norman Francis, president of Xavier University of Louisiana and grand marshall for the 2015 Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club Coronation Ball.

Dr. Francis was born in Lafayette, LA, to the son of a barber and a stay-home mother who valued education and hard work. After Dr. Francis graduated from St. Paul High School in 1948, he was awarded a scholarship to Xavier University, America's only historically black Catholic university, where he excelled academically. In 1953, he enrolled in Loyola University New Orleans from which he earned his juris doctorate in 1955. After this, he spent 2 years in the U.S. Army before returning to New Orleans.

In 1968, Dr. Francis was named president of Xavier University. He was the first African American man to lead Xavier, and he is currently the longest-sitting university president in the United States. As both a student and eventual administrator, Dr. Francis has been at Xavier for more than five decades. He is credited with being the catalyst for nearly every new building constructed on the campus during the past four decades.

Under Dr. Francis' leadership, Xavier continues to rank first nationally in the number of African American students earning undergraduate degrees in the biology and the life sciences, chemistry, physics, and pharmacy. Since 1993, Xavier has also continued to rank first nationally for African American students being accepted into medical schools.

Dr. Francis has received numerous honorary degrees from other universities and prestigious awards in recognition of his leadership in higher education and for unselfish service to New Orleans and to our Nation. In 2006, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President George W. Bush. Dr. Francis served as chairman of the Louisiana Recovery Authority following the devastation from Hurricane Katrina and Rita, and he was a leader in the efforts to rebuild the lives of those affected by the storms. In the aftermath of these storms, one publication called Dr. Francis a ''quiet hero.'' This is a great way to describe a man who has done so much for his university, his community, his State, and his Nation.

I am pleased to join with the Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club in honoring grand marshall Dr. Norman Francis.•

## MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 527. An act to amend chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the Regulatory Flexibility Act), to ensure compete analysis of potential impacts on small entities of rules, and for other purposes.

## MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 527. An act to amend chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the Regulatory Flexibility Act), to ensure complete analysis of potential impacts on small entities of rules, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

## MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 405. A bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

## EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–591. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''OMB Report to the Congress on the Joint Committee Reductions for Fiscal Year 2016''; to the Committees on the Budget; and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–592. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''OMB Sequestration Preview Report to the President and Congress for Fiscal Year 2016''; to the Committees on the Budget; and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–593. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Difenoconazole; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 9920–98) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–594. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Flutriafol; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 9922–06) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–595. A communication from the Under Secretary for Rural Development, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Rural Development Regulations—Update to FmHA References and to Census References'' (RIN0570–AA30) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–596. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Russian Sanctions: Licensing Policy for the Crimea Region of Ukraine'' (RIN0694–AG43) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 3, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs .

EC–597. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revisions to the Unverified List (UVL)'' (RIN0694–AG35) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–598. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to Norway; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–599. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to the United Arab Emirates; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–600. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Community Planning and Development, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Housing Trust Fund'' (RIN2506–AC30) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 5, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–601. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Homeland Defense and Global Security), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to assistance provided by the Department of Defense (DoD) for sporting events during calendar year 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–602. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Report to Congress On Repair of Naval Vessels in Foreign Shipyards''; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–603. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedures for Fluorescent Lamp Ballasts'' ((RIN1904–AB99) (Docket No. EERE–2009–BT–TP–0016)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 5, 2015; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–604. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to sections 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14–120); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–605. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Annual Funding Notice for Defined Benefit Plans'' (RIN1210–AB18) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 3, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–606. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Mother and Infant Home Visiting Program Evaluation: Early Findings on the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program''; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–607. A communication from the Director, Office of Communications and Legislative Affairs, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Annual Sunshine Act Report for 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–608. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014 and the Management Response for the period ending September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–609. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–610. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Bureau of Prisons' compliance with the privatization requirements of the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–611. A communication from the Secretary of the Commission, Bureau of Competition, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revised Jurisdictional Thresholds for Section 8 of the Clayton Act'' (FR Doc. 2015–00929) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–612. A communication from the Secretary of the Commission, Bureau of Competition, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revised Jurisdictional Thresholds for Section 7a of the Clayton Act'' (FR Doc. 2015–00933) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–613. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA) Quarterly Report to Congress; First Quarter of Fiscal Year 2015''; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs .

EC–614. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Washington; Redesignation to Attainment for the Tacoma-Pierce County Nonattainment Area and Approval of Associated Maintenance Plan for the 2006 24-Hour Fine Particulate Matter Standard'' (FRL No. 9922–81–Region 10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–615. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New Mexico; Transportation Conformity and Conformity of General Federal Actions'' (FRL No. 9922–73–Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–616. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; North Carolina; Inspection and Maintenance Program Updates'' (FRL No. 9922–42–Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–617. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revision to the Arizona State Implementation Plan; Nogales Nonattainment Area; Fine Particulate Matter Emissions Inventories'' (FRL No. 9922–74–Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–618. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Placer County Air Pollution Control District and San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District'' (FRL No. 9921–37–Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–619. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revisions to the Clean Air Act Section 110 Submission Requirements for State Implementation Plans and Notice of Availability of an Option for Electronic Reporting'' ((RIN2060–AS20) (FRL No. 9922–54–Region OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–620. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulation of Fuels and Fuel Additives: Extension of the Reformulated Gasoline Program to Maine's Southern Counties'' ((RIN2060–AS19) (FRL No. 9921–82–OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–621. A communication from the Under Secretary for Policy, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the National Transportation Safety Board's 2015 Most Wanted List; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–622. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Federal Railroad Administrator, received on February 5, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–623. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries Off West Coast States; Modifications of the West Coast Commercial and Recreational Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Actions No. 24 through No. 44'' (RIN0648–XD547) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–624. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher/Processors Using Trawl Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska '' (RIN0648–XD713) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–625. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Inseason Adjustment to the 2015 Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Pollock, Atka Mackerel, and Pacific Code Total Allowable Catch Amounts'' (RIN0648–XD688) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–626. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Vessel Monitoring Systems; Requirements for Enhanced Mobile Transceiver Unit and Mobile Communication Service Type-Approval'' (RIN0648–BD02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–627. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United

States; Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act Provisions; American Lobster Fishery'' (RIN0648–BD45) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–628. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No . FAA–2014–0924)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–629. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0927)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–630. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0925)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–631. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2009–0108)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–632. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0580)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–633. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0587)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–634. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; PILATUS Aircraft Ltd. Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0770)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–635. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0692)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–636. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (36); Amdt. No. 3623'' (RIN2120–AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–637. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels Using Hook-and-Line Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska '' (RIN0648–XD654) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 4, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. GRASSLEY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment:

S. 295. A bill to amend section 2259 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 337. A bill to improve the Freedom of Information Act.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. UDALL (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 410. A bill to strengthen Indian education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. 411. A bill to authorize the approval of natural gas pipelines and establish deadlines and expedite permits for certain natural gas gathering lines on Federal land and Indian land; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. MIKULSKI:

S. 412. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to encourage and support parent, family, and community involvement in schools, to provide needed integrated services and comprehensive supports to children for the ultimate goal of assisting students to stay in school, become successful learners, improve their academic achievement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 413. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to deny tax deductions for corporate regulatory violations; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 414. A bill to provide for conservation, enhanced recreation opportunities, and development of renewable energy in the California Desert Conservation Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. UDALL (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 415. A bill to amend the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in order to limit the penalties to a State that does not meet its maintenance of effort level of funding to a one-time penalty, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. UDALL:

S. 416. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants to promote the education of expectant and parenting students; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 417. A bill to encourage spectrum licensees to make unused spectrum available for use by rural and smaller carries in order to expand wireless coverage; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. UDALL:

S. 418. A bill to support and encourage the health and well-being of elementary school and secondary school students by enhancing school physical education and health education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. UDALL (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 419. A bill to assist coordination among science, technology, engineering, and mathematics efforts in the States, to strengthen the capacity of elementary schools, middle schools, and secondary schools to prepare students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. ENZI, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BURR, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. COATS, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. KIRK, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. THUNE, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CORKER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. HELLER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. PAUL, Mr. COTTON, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. VITTER, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. CRUZ):

S.J. Res. 8. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to representation case procedures; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SHELBY:

S.J. Res. 9. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States which requires (except during time of war and subject to suspension by Congress) that the total amount of money expended by the United States during any fiscal year not exceed the amount of certain revenue received by the United States during such fiscal year and not exceed 20 percent of the gross domestic product of the United States during the previous calendar year; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 85

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 85, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish a simplified income-driven repayment plan, and for other purposes.

S. 111

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 111, a bill to prohibit a Federal agency from establishing or implementing a policy that discourages or prohibits the selection of a resort or vacation destination as the location for a conference or event, and for other purposes.

S. 113

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 113, a bill to ensure that Federal Register notices submitted to the Bureau of Land Management are reviewed in a timely manner.

S. 140

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 140, a bill to combat human trafficking.

S. 141

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 141, a bill to repeal the provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act providing for the Independent Payment Advisory Board.

S. 149

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 149, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on medical devices.

S. 164

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 164, a bill to increase the rates of pay under the General Schedule and other statutory pay systems and for prevailing rate employees by 3.8 percent, and for other purposes.

S. 166

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 166, a bill to stop exploitation through trafficking.

S. 178

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 178, a bill to provide justice for the victims of trafficking.

S. 183

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 183, a bill to repeal the annual fee on health insurance providers enacted by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. 192

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 192, a bill to reauthorize the Older Americans Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

S. 197

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 197, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to award grants to States to improve delivery of high-quality assessments, and for other purposes.

S. 223

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 223, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a pilot program on awarding grants for provision of furniture, household items, and other assistance to homeless veterans to facilitate their transition into permanent housing, and for other purposes.

S. 235

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 235, a bill to provide for wildfire suppression operations, and for other purposes.

S. 265

At the request of Mr. SCOTT, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 265, a bill to expand opportunity through greater choice in education, and for other purposes.

S. 269

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 269, a bill to expand sanctions imposed with respect to Iran and to impose additional sanctions with respect to Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 283

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 283, a bill to prohibit the Internal Revenue Service from modifying the standard for determining whether an organization is operated exclusively for the promotion of social welfare for purposes of section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

S. 299

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 299, a bill to allow travel between the United States and Cuba.

S. 301

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 301, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and for other purposes.

S. 309

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 309, a bill to prohibit earmarks.

S. 316

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 316, a bill to amend the charter school program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

S. 327

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 327, a bill to provide for auditable financial statements for the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

S. 335

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 335, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve 529 plans.

S. 337

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 337, a bill to improve the Freedom of Information Act.

S. 352

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 352, a bill to amend section 5000A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an additional religious exemption from the individual health coverage mandate, and for other purposes.

S. 356

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 356, a bill to improve the provisions relating to the privacy of electronic communications.

S. 373

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 373, a bill to provide for the establishment of nationally uniform and environmentally sound standards governing discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel.

S. 384

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 384, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to facilitate water leasing and water transfers to promote conservation and efficiency.

S. 386

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 386, a bill to limit the

authority of States to tax certain income of employees for employment duties performed in other States.

S. 394

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 394, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the 15-year recovery period for qualified leasehold improvement property, qualified restaurant property, and qualified retail improvement property.

S. 402

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 402, a bill to establish a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Master Teacher Corps program.

S. 404

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 404, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking minors across State lines in circumvention of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions.

S. RES. 40

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 40, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding efforts by the United States and others to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon.

S. RES. 69

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 69, a resolution calling for the protection of religious minority rights and freedoms worldwide.

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 413. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to deny tax deductions for corporate regulatory violations; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am reintroducing, along with Senator GRASSLEY, the Government Settlement Transparency and Reform Act. This bill aims to end the subsidization of illegal corporate behavior by taxpayers by closing a loophole that allows corporations to reap tax benefits from payments made to the government stemming from settling corporate misdeeds.

Corporations accused of illegal activity routinely settle legal disputes with the government out of court because it allows both the company and the government to avoid the time, expense, and uncertainty of going to trial. Under Federal law, money paid to settle corporate civil or criminal penalties is not deductible. But under the tax code, offending companies may often write off any portion of a settlement that is not paid directly to the government as a penalty or fine for violation of the law. Corporations exploit this provision by later characterizing settlement penalties as restitution and a tax-deductible business expense.

I think most would agree that, for example, a corporation should not come to an agreement with the government to pay $500 million in criminal or civil fines and then when they file their taxes count those very fines as a business expense and take a tax windfall. Corporations that do this are effectively using taxpayer dollars to subsidize their illegal behavior. In 2005, the Government Accountability Office found that of the 34 companies and $1 billion in settlements they examined, 20 companies took a tax deduction for some or all of the money it paid to the government. Those settlements were silent on whether that $1 billion to the government counted as penalties or restitution. According to GAO, in two of those settlements, company representatives said they made a mistake in deducting civil penalty payments totaling $1.9 million and said they would amend their tax returns.

To address these practices, the Reed-Grassley bill would amend 162(f) of the tax code and require the government and the settling party to reach pre-filing agreements on how the settlement payments should be treated for tax purposes. Our bill also clarifies the rules about what settlement payments are punitive and therefore non-deductible. Furthermore, it increases transparency by requiring the government to file a return at the time of settlement to accurately reflect the tax treatment of the amounts that will be paid by the offending party.

Last Congress it was estimated that over a ten-year budget window this legislation would raise $218 million in revenue.

With this legislation we can close this tax loophole that flies in the face of sensible and fair tax policy. The tax code should not be used to subsidize illegal activity by corporations. Indeed, when a fine is levied, that fine should not be construed as a legitimate business expense. Instead, it should be paid in full, with no tax deduction taken.

I want to thank Senator GRASSLEY for working with me again on this legislation. He has long championed closing this loophole. I urge our colleagues to join us by cosponsoring this legislation and seeking its passage.

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By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 414. A bill to proide for conservation, enhanced recreation opportunities, and development of renewable energy in the California Desert Conservation Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today I am introducing the California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act, a piece of legislation that serves as an update to the historic California Desert Protection Act of 1994.

This bill reflects our attempt to achieve consensus among the various uses of desert land and the many stakeholders involved. This bill is bipartisan and it charts a commonsense path forward for the California desert.

It protects additional desert land. It helps manage my State's natural resources. It balances competing interests. It includes provisions on recreation and renewable energy development.

Overall, it ensures that the California desert will remain what it is today: a true American treasure.

This bill has been a long time in the making.

Only three months after I was sworn in as Senator, in January 1993, I introduced the Desert Protection Act. I picked up where my predecessors left off, and President Clinton signed the bill into law in October 1994.

This law was the largest land conservation designation in the continental United States:

It protected or increased existing protection for 9.6 million acres of desert land.

It established the iconic national parks of Joshua Tree and Death Valley, as well as the Mojave National Preserve.

It helped save habitats for endangered species.

It continues to attract millions of tourists to southern California—a boon for the economy.

It has ensured that the beautiful landscapes will be enjoyed for generations.

I recently visited the desert to celebrate the 20-year anniversary of that legislation becoming law. I was once again reminded how stunning the special land is. Simply put, it is an icon of the American West.

I became even more convinced: now is the time to do even more.

This is why I am introducing new legislation—to build upon the legacy of 1994.

The bill I am introducing today has a simple goal: to help manage California's desert resources with a well-planned approach that balances conservation, recreation, energy production and other needs.

This bill is first and foremost a bipartisan bill. It brings so many groups together:

Environmental groups; State and local governments; the off-road community; cattle ranchers; mining interests; the Defense Department; energy companies; California's public utility companies; and many others.

To account for all the uses of the desert, this whole effort was based on

an attempt to find consensus. We have worked very hard over the years to build that consensus.

We have consulted these stakeholders over the past 6 years. We have had thousands of hours of discussions. They have provided invaluable input and I am grateful for all of them coming to the table.

The cornerstone of the legislation is the creation of two new national monuments:

First is the Mojave Trails National Monument, which would encompass 965,000 acres. Of that, 196,000 acres is Caetellus lands, the areas acquired or donated to the Federal Government between 1999 and 2004 with the purpose of conserving land for the American public.

It should be noted that this donated land, which stretches from the Mexican border to San Bernardino county, was the largest land donation to the U.S. Government in the continental United States. But recently, the aim to conserve it was threatened by the development of some solar energy projects. That is why this bill is necessary: to ensure that the intention of those generous donors, to protect this land in perpetuity, is actually realized.

The second monument designation is the Sand to Snow National Monument. This would be made up of 135,000 acres of land from the desert floor in the Coachella Valley to the top of Mount San Gorgonio.

The Mojave Trails National Monument is essential as it contains important wildlife corridors and habitats. The Sand to Snow National Monument, likewise, would be one of the most environmentally diverse monuments in the country, including habitat for 240 species of migrating and breeding birds.

The bill has many other conservation provisions including: designating six BLM wilderness areas, covering 250,000 acres of land, designating 77 miles along 4 waterways as Wild and Scenic River; adding land to the Death Valley National Park, 39,000 acres, Mojave National Preserve, 22,000 acres, and Joshua Tree National Park, 4,500 acres.

Conserving pristine desert land such as this is most definitely in the interests of our country. The California desert is a very special place and it deserves to stay that way.

The bill also designates five existing BLM Off-Highway Vehicle Areas, covering approximately 142,000 acres of desert, as permanent Off-Highway Vehicle, OHV, recreation areas.

As has been stated, the desert has many uses, and motorists have long used the area for recreation. These provisions give off-highway enthusiasts the certainty they need. Their use of the desert will be protected as much as conservation areas are.

In fact, in this regard we have had success in recent years. Congressman PAUL COOK and I brokered an agreement for the mixed use of Johnson Valley, which was the subject of debate between the Marine Corps and off-road vehicle enthusiasts. We brought the parties together and reached a compromise. We made clear what land was for off-roading, what land was for Marine Corps training only and what land was to be shared.

This model of compromise should be instructive. When the parties come together, as they have in the case of this bill, we can achieve an equitable and fair distribution of the land.

Another use of the desert land that we must take into account is renewable energy.

Let me be clear: developing cleaner energy is important for California's economy and for our efforts to fight global warming.

But I also feel strongly that we must be very careful where these facilities are located.

Balancing conservation, development and other uses is possible, we just need to come up with the right solutions. Thankfully, some of these compromises are already in place.

In April 2009 there were 28 solar and wind energy proposals on lands proposed to be included in the Mojave Trails National Monument, including sites on former Catellus lands intended for permanent conservation.

I visited some of those sites at the time, including one particularly beautiful area known as the Broadwell Valley, where thousands of acres of pristine lands were proposed for development. Seeing it first hand, I quickly came to the conclusion that those lands were simply not the right place for renewable energy development.

Since then, 26 of the 28 applications have been withdrawn. So what happened in the nearly 6 years since then?

First, the Energy and Interior Departments developed new solar energy zones. These zones allow projects to be developed on lands least likely to harm plant and wildlife species, and allow projects to be completed faster and with fewer conflicts. This is a smart compromise.

Second, California has worked closely with Federal agencies to develop the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan. This blueprint will help identify pristine lands that warrant protection and direct energy projects elsewhere.

Today, none of the land proposed for renewable development or transmission as part of these initiatives conflicts with the conservation proposed in this bill.

This is a fair balancing of priorities, and I think it provides a clear path forward.

The bill I am introducing also takes additional action to help promote responsible renewable energy development.

Specifically, the bill requires the Interior Department to exchange approximately 370,000 acres of small, isolated parcels of State land for Federal land. By swapping state land that is often surrounded by wilderness and national parks for other federal land, these exchanges will provide California with sites for renewable energy production, recreation or other uses.

I strongly urge my colleagues to take a good look at this legislation. I hope they understand that the many stakeholders involved have made their voices heard. The text of this legislation represents a consensus effort.

Most importantly, I hope they recognize the simple fact that desert conservation has never been a partisan issue.

Over the years, legislators have come together across party lines to preserve this great piece of land.

Given our past success, I am hopeful this Congress will take this legislation up and move it forward. It is the right thing to do, and the California desert needs it.

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By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. ENZI, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BURR, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. COATS, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. KIRK, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. THUNE, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CORKER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. HELLER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. PAUL, Mr. COTTON, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. VITTER, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. CRUZ):

S.J. Res. 8. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to representation case procedures; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, recently the Senate has had a lot of discussion about partisan overreach. We have talked about an administration that seems to view democracy as what it can get away with, not what it can work cooperatively to achieve. It is worrying for our country, and we keep seeing more examples of it.

Consider the administration's effort to weaken workers' rights. This administration's appointees on the National Labor Relations Board released their so-called ambush rule back in December. It is designed with one purpose in mind: to fatten the wallets of powerful political bosses by weakening the rights of middle-class workers.

Republicans believe a worker has a right to make her own informed choices about joining a union. We don't think powerful political bosses should attempt to make that decision for her, but that is just what this rule aims to achieve. These bosses think they can enrich their own coffers if they can deny workers real opportunities to

weigh the pros and cons of joining a union. For instance, in an era of stagnant wages, does a worker want to see her paycheck shrink so a political boss can attend more campaign fundraisers? Republicans think that is a choice for the worker to make. Does a worker want to give up her right to demand better pay or a promotion that she deserves and cede those decisions to a distant political organization?

Republicans think she has a right to make those choices for herself and she has a right to make them in an informed way, but the administration's ambush rule would dramatically weaken her ability to do so. In many cases it wouldn't even allow her more than a handful of days to weigh the pros and cons of such a costly and important decision. It is really not fair. And it is not just me saying that; consider the words of John F. Kennedy. Here is what he had to say about it. ''There should be at least a 30-day interval'' for union elections, he said. He noted that these 30 days represent a safeguard against ''rushing employees into an election where they are unfamiliar with the issues.'' Kennedy was right.

There is another important issue at stake here too. Just as Republicans think a worker has a right to make her own informed choices, Republicans also think her personal information is none of the business of powerful political bosses. But the administration's ambush rule would allow those bosses to access things such as her email address and cell number without—without—her permission. It also would allow those bosses to track her, to know exactly when and where she is working—again, without her permission. She can't opt out and she can't unsubscribe. This is really chilling. This is really extreme.

What about the men and women who rise early every day to fulfill their dreams, the men and women who provide so many opportunities for others to fulfill theirs? This ambush rule is also aimed at preventing someone with a small business of her own from even having a real conversation with her employees about the cost and the benefits of joining a union. The ambush rule would give extraordinary power to political bosses on the outside, while shutting her voice down—the one person who probably knows more about and cares more about her employees than anyone else. After years spent building a dream and caring about the men and women who helped her get there, this rule is an insult—an insult—to entrepreneurs like her.

Moreover, it is not the men and women on the assembly line who are demanding the ambush rule. There is no demand for this coming up with the workforce in America. So who is demanding it? It is the powerful political bosses who worry that more and more workers are making an informed choice not to join a union. Those bosses are worried about what informed choices could mean for them—less money, less power.

So this far-reaching rule—the so-called Mt. Everest of regulations—is not the result of the administration seeking out the best policy; it is just another example of the administration seeing what it can get away with. It is a brazen attempt to enrich powerful political friends of the White House by weakening workers' rights. It is not fair for workers, and it is not right for our country.

My good friends the Senators from Tennessee and Wyoming are here on the floor to explain what Congress plans to do to stand up for basic fairness in the workplace. They are going to talk about this latest example of partisan executive overreach—the kind of overreach that is coming to define the Obama administration—and what Congress plans to do next.

Madam President, I see the Senator from Tennessee is on his feet, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I thank the Chair for the recognition and the majority leader for his remarks and his leadership. I am also glad to be here with the Senator from Wyoming, who over the years has been the leading Republican Senator on the issue of ambush elections.

We are here today, as the majority leader said, to introduce a Congressional Review Act resolution to stop a new National Labor Relations Board rule. I would like to speak about that for a few minutes and then let the Senator from Wyoming continue.

Last December the NLRB issued a final rule that shortened the timeline between when pro-union organizers ask an employer for a secret ballot election and when the election actually takes place. I refer to this as an ambush election because it forces a union election before an employer has a chance to figure out what is going on. Even worse, it jeopardizes employees' privacy by requiring employers to turn over personal employee information—including email addresses, phone numbers, shift hours, and locations—to union organizers.

The effect of this resolution will be to permit the majority leader to bring this resolution to the floor after the congressional recess. There will be 10 hours of debate. The resolution cannot be amended, and it needs a majority vote to pass. The House of Representatives is following a similar procedure. Both Houses must vote on it. If it passes both Houses, the President can sign or veto the resolution. If the President decides to veto, it would take 67 votes to override. If the NLRB's new ambush election rule is disapproved, the Board cannot issue a substantially similar rule without congressional approval.

Today, more than 95 percent of union elections occur within 56 days after a petition is filed, but under this new rule elections could take place in as few as 11 days after a petition is filed. This rule will harm employers and employees alike, and here is how.

If you are an employer who gets ambushed—in other words, a union election happens before you really know what is going on—on day 1 you get a faxed copy of an election petition that has been filed at your local NLRB regional office stating that 30 percent of your employees support a union. The union may have already been quietly trying to organize for months without your knowledge. Your employees have been able to hear only the union's pitch.

By day 2 or 3 of this process, you must publicly post an election notice in your workplace and post it online as well if you communicate with your employees electronically.

By noon on day 7, you must file with the NLRB what is called a statement of position. This is a comprehensive, written legal document in which an employer sets out legal positions and claims. Under this new NLRB rule, you, the employer, waive your rights to use any legal arguments not raised in the document. On day 7, you must also present the union and the NLRB with a list of prospective voters as well as their job classifications, shift hours, and work locations.

On day 8, a pre-election hearing is held at the NLRB regional office, and an election date is set.

By day 10, the employer must present the union with a list of employee names, personal email addresses, personal cell phone numbers, and home addresses.

Day 11 is the earliest day on which the NLRB could conduct the election under the new rule. The union has the power to postpone an election by an additional 10 days at this point, but the employer has no corresponding power.

Under this new NLRB rule, before the hearing on day 8 an employer will have less than 1 week to figure out what an election petition is, find legal representation—many employers don't have a labor lawyer as a matter of course—determine legal positions on the relevant issues, learn what statements and actions the law permits and prohibits, gather information required by the NLRB, communicate with employees about the decision they are making, and correct any misstatements and falsehoods employees may be hearing from union organizers. Making even the slightest mistake in the lead-up to an election can result in the NLRB setting aside the results and ordering a rerun election or, worse, the Board could require an employer to automatically bargain with the union.

But it is the employees who stand to lose the most under this new rule. First, because of this ambush election, employees may only hear half the story about what unionizing may mean for them and for their workplace. When a workplace is unionized—especially in a State that does not have a right-to-work law—employees have their dues money taken out of every paycheck,

whether they like it or not. Employees lose the ability to deal directly with their employer to address concerns, or ask for a promotion or raise, and instead have to work through the union.

Important considerations, such as which of their fellow employees will be included in the bargaining unit, will no longer be determined before the election. As the two dissenting members of the NLRB put it: Employees will be asked to ''vote now, understand later.''

Second, employees lose their privacy because the final rule we seek to overturn requires employers to hand over employees' personal email addresses, cell phone numbers, shift locations, and job classifications, even if the employee has made it clear he does not want to be contacted by union organizers.

This rule appears to be a solution in search of a problem. Only 4.3 percent of union elections occur more than 56 days after the petition is filed. The current median number of days between when the petition is filed and the election is held is just 38 days.

These figures are well within the NLRB's own goals for timely elections. Unions won 64 percent of elections in 2013. In recent years, the union win rate has actually been going up. So what is the problem?

The majority leader said it very well when he referred to a 1959 debate over amendments to the National Labor Relations Act. Then-Senator John F. Kennedy warned against rushing employees into a union election. Senator Kennedy said:

> There should be at least a 30-day interval between the request for an election and the holding of the election...in which both parties can present their viewpoints.
>
> The 30-day waiting period is an additional safeguard against rushing employees into an election where they are unfamiliar with the issues.

It is clear to see this rule is wrong. That is why Senator ENZI, Senator MCCONNELL, and I are asking the Senate to disapprove the rule and prohibit the National Labor Relations Board from issuing any substantially similar rule.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Tennessee, Mr. ALEXANDER, for his comments.

I don't think I have ever heard it put quite as concisely or the timeline explained quite as well as he did. I hope people are paying attention. I hope people take a look at the journal and see exactly how short a timeframe that is for both the employer and the employees.

So I rise to support the resolution of disapproval that would repeal the National Labor Relations Board's ambush election rule.

I again thank my friend Senator ALEXANDER for his leadership as the chairman of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee and for leading this effort to prevent yet more misguided Federal regulation that will hurt American businesses and employees.

Unfortunately this isn't the first time we have had to fight this rule from the NLRB. When I led the Congressional Review Act resolution to stop this rule in 2012, I truly appreciated Senator ALEXANDER's support and am proud to support him now. I didn't have the votes to pass the resolution in 2012, but we have had some elections and some changes in the Senate since then.

The rule the National Labor Relations Board has proposed would be a tremendous burden on employers, especially small businesses. If this rule goes into effect, it will mean employers will barely have time to meet their preelection legal obligations. It will mean employees will be rushed into an election without time to study and consider what the unionization would mean for them, for their workplace, and for their community. Also, Big Labor will be able to force elections through in order to boost revenue from union dues and increase the influence of Big Labor.

Our economy is already grappling with Federal rules and regulations that hold back businesses. This rule from the National Labor Relations Board will be yet another break, slowing down our economy at a time when we need to encourage employers and businesses to grow. It would be especially harmful to small businesses, which are the backbone of our economy and the most important factor in maintaining our fragile economic growth.

Small businesses that don't have human resource departments and more particularly don't have in-house legal counsel already face a significant burden when they have to navigate union elections. This rule would only make it harder. This rule would hurt businesses for the sole purpose of helping unions that don't need it.

Union elections are supposed to be held in a timely and fair manner, which is what the current system achieves. The average time between filing an election petition, as has been mentioned, and holding the vote is 38 days, and nearly all elections happen within 2 months.

That process allows employers to understand their rights and meet their legal obligations. It allows employees to educate themselves about what unionization means for them personally and for their work, and it ensures that union elections will be a fair opportunity for workers to decide whether to organize.

Under the current system there is a 25-day waiting period between the setting of an election and the actual secret ballot election. That window of time is crucial. Employers use that time to understand their rights and restrictions in the process and to meet their legal obligations.

The union election process is not simple, nor is it straightforward for employees. There are numerous places where a well-meaning employer working to meet their obligations could misstep and face heavy penalties from the National Labor Relations Board.

Employers also use this time to communicate with their employees about the decision they are making and to clear up misstatements, rumors or falsehoods that have been going around.

The time between petitioning for election and voting is also used for parties to study decisions by hearing officers or the National Labor Relations Board's regional director and ask for clarification or review.

Under the National Labor Relations Board's rule, all the opportunities for anyone involved with the process to understand their legal obligations, to exercise their rights, to study or debate the arguments for or against unionization or even to learn about the issue would be squeezed into as little as 14 days.

Is it fair for an employee to only have 10 days to learn how his or her vote will affect the rest of their time with that employer—we have to remember they are going to be working during that time probably—or how much money membership in a union is going to cost them or what it means for their ability to negotiate directly with their employer for raises or other benefits or concerns or any of the countless other issues an employee might want to approach his or her employer about?

Under current law, both parties are able to raise issues about the election at a preelection hearing, covering such issues as which employees should be included in the bargaining unit and whether particular employees are actually supervisors.

Under the new regulation, parties will be barred from raising these questions until after the election. Employees will be forced to vote without knowing which other employees will actually be in the bargaining unit with them. This is important information that weighs heavily in most employees' votes.

Under current law, when either party raises preelection issues, they are allowed to submit evidence and testimony, and file post-hearing briefs for the hearing officer to consider, and then they have 14 days in which to appeal decisions made with respect to that election.

Under the new regulation, the hearing officer is given the broad discretion to bar all evidence and testimony unrelated to the question of representation and all post-election briefs and no appeals or requests for stays are allowed. This could be quite a disadvantage for employees as well as employers.

What this all adds up to is an extremely small window of time for filing

the petition to the actual election, little opportunity for employers to learn their rights or communicate with their employees their rights, and less opportunities for employees to research the union and the ramifications of forming the union.

The NLRB is ensuring that the odds are stacked against the employees and the businesses. This vote is an opportunity to tell the National Labor Relations Board to reverse course.

I hope this resolution will convince the National Labor Relations Board to pull back from this disastrous rule and encourage them to focus on their statutory mission rather than overturning decades of settled practice that ensures that this process is held in a timely manner and that there is a fair opportunity for all sides to understand, to participate, and to exercise their rights.

The NLRB's purpose is to enforce the National Labor Relations Act, which is a carefully balanced law that has only rarely been changed. When changes have occurred, they have been the result of careful negotiations, with input from stakeholders and thoughtful debate.

The NLRB is attempting a sneak attack through the rulemaking process. This is an ambush on the National Labor Relations Act to set up ambush elections.

The National Labor Relations Board is an agency that has historically issued very few regulations. Most of the questions that come up under the law are handled through the decisions of the Board. Board decisions often do change the enforcement of the law significantly, but they are issued in response to an actual dispute and a question of law.

In contrast, the ambush election is not a response to a real problem because the current election process for certifying whether employees want to form a union is not broken. The rule was not carefully negotiated by stakeholders, it was not made with careful debate, and there was no attempt to reach a consensus.

In the late 1950s Congress worked to pass the Landrieu-Griffin Act, which protected the rights of both rank-and-file union members and their employees. This was a carefully constructed piece of legislation that came out of a special committee to study the issue, that heard from more than 1,500 witnesses over 3 years. And Congress debated the issue of how long a period of time there should be between the request for an election and the actual election coming up during those negotiations.

My colleagues may be surprised to learn—although they wouldn't if they were listening to the previous two speeches—that it was Senator John F. Kennedy who argued vigorously for a 30-day waiting period prior to the election. He said:

> There should be at least a 30 day interval between a request for an election and the holding of an election . . . in which both parties can present their viewpoints. . . . The 30 day waiting period is an additional safeguard against rushing employees into an election where they are unfamiliar with the issues.

Again, that was a quote by Senator John F. Kennedy, speaking directly to the need for fairness to employees. The 30-day waiting period provision he supported did not ultimately become part of the law, and obviously it is not a law today. Instead, the NLRB adopted the practice of a 25-day waiting period in almost every case.

This caution about the need for employees to have a chance to become familiar with the issues is just as true today. Employees who are not aware of the organizing activity at their worksites and even those who are need to have an opportunity to learn about the union they may join. They will want to research the union to ensure it has no signs of corruption. They will want to know how other worksites have fared with this union and whether they can believe the promises the union organizers may be extending. Employees should have every chance to understand the impact of unionization. Four decades ago Senators recognized that employees deserved the opportunity to gather this and all other relevant information before casting their votes. Unfortunately, the NLRB is choosing to ignore this caution, and rank-and-file employees will suffer.

This situation is exactly what the Congressional Review Act was intended for. When an agency goes too far and tries to impose rules and regulations that are unnecessary or harmful—in this case, both—the Congressional Review Act gives Congress an expedited process for repealing that regulation. It is a process that cannot be held up and cannot be stalled or put off to ensure that Congress can act when it needs to stop an out-of-control agency.

By any measure, the current law and certification system for union elections ensures that the process is fair for all parties and that all parties have the opportunity to exercise their rights and to fully understand the implications. The National Labor Relations Board has not made the case that elections are being held up or stalled. They cannot make the case because the data doesn't support it. I want to repeat. The National Labor Relations Board has not made the case that elections are being held up or stalled. They cannot make that case because the data doesn't support it. There is no need for this rule, which is just a handout to Big Labor, which relies on pushing unions forward before businesses and employees have a chance to study and understand the full effects.

This resolution will preserve the fairness and swift resolution of claims which occur under current law. It will not disadvantage unions or roll back any rights. It is important to say that again because there is going to be a lot of misinformation about what this resolution does. This resolution does not disadvantage unions or roll back any union rights. What it does is it ensures that small business employers and employees in America are not unfairly disadvantaged by a burdensome process and that employees are not misled with insufficient or incorrect information during the union election process.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 1 additional minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ENZI. Under a successful Congressional Review Act disapproval, the agency in question is prohibited from issuing any substantially similar regulation. That means the National Labor Relations Board could not just reissue this regulation again and again, as they have currently done.

I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution to ensure that the National Labor Relations Board understands that this rule is a no-go and that we will stand up to ensure a fair process.

## PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I wish to make a unanimous consent request that Lt. Col. Anthony McCarty, a defense fellow in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of this year.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## FOREIGN TRAVEL FINANCIAL REPORTS

In accordance with the appropriate provisions of law, the Secretary of the Senate herewith submits the following reports for standing committees of the Senate, certain joint committees of the Congress, delegations and groups, and select and special committees of the Senate, relating to expenses incurred in the performance of authorized foreign travel:

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2014

| Name and country | Name of currency | Per diem | | Transportation | | Miscellaneous | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency |
| Senator Debbie Stabenow: | | | | | | | | | |
| Senegal | franc | | 376.00 | | | | | | 376.00 |
| Tanzania | shilling | | 751.50 | | | | | | 751.50 |
| Ethiopia | birr | | 984.00 | | | | | | 984.00 |
| Italy | euro | | 1,093.57 | | | | | | 1,093.57 |
| Senator Amy Klobuchar: | | | | | | | | | |
| Senegal | franc | | 461.75 | | | | | | 461.75 |
| Tanzania | shilling | | 575.10 | | | | | | 575.10 |
| Ethiopia | birr | | 810.52 | | | | | | 810.52 |
| Italy | euro | | 878.58 | | | | | | 878.58 |
| Senator Heidi Heitkamp: | | | | | | | | | |
| Senegal | franc | | 238.95 | | | | | | 238.95 |
| Tanzania | shilling | | 484.90 | | | | | | 484.90 |
| Ethiopia | birr | | 1,026.50 | | | | | | 1,026.50 |
| Italy | euro | | 1,115.60 | | | | | | 1,115.60 |
| Christopher Adamo: | | | | | | | | | |
| Senegal | franc | | 476.00 | | | | | | 476.00 |
| Tanzania | shilling | | 851.50 | | | | | | 851.50 |
| Ethiopia | birr | | 1,084.00 | | | | | | 1,084.00 |
| Italy | euro | | 1,043.57 | | | | | | 1,043.57 |
| Anne Brewster-Stanski: | | | | | | | | | |
| Senegal | franc | | 376.00 | | | | | | 376.00 |
| Tanzania | shilling | | 751.50 | | | | | | 751.50 |
| Ethiopia | birr | | 955.00 | | | | | | 955.00 |
| Italy | euro | | 1,093.57 | | | | | | 1,093.57 |
| Jacqlyn Schneider: | | | | | | | | | |
| Senegal | franc | | 403.00 | | | | | | 403.00 |
| Tanzania | shilling | | 814.50 | | | | | | 814.50 |
| Ethiopia | birr | | 1,073.00 | | | | | | 1,073.00 |
| Italy | euro | | 1,101.57 | | | | | | 1,101.57 |
| Joseph Shultz: | | | | | | | | | |
| Senegal | franc | | 476.00 | | | | | | 476.00 |
| Tanzania | shilling | | 851.50 | | | | | | 851.50 |
| Ethiopia | birr | | 1,084.00 | | | | | | 1,084.00 |
| Italy | euro | | 943.57 | | | | | | 943.57 |
| Brigit Helgen: | | | | | | | | | |
| Senegal | franc | | 544.02 | | | | | | 544.02 |
| Tanzania | shilling | | 897.45 | | | | | | 897.45 |
| Ethiopia | birr | | 468.10 | | | | | | 468.10 |
| Italy | euro | | 897.04 | | | | | | 897.04 |
| Delegation Expenses: * | | | | | | | | | |
| Senegal | franc | | | | | | 2,862.55 | | 2,862,55 |
| Tanzania | shilling | | | | | | 18,861.79 | | 18,861.79 |
| Ethiopia | birr | | | | | | 25,938.60 | | 25,938.60 |
| Italy | euro | | | | | | 3,285.21 | | 3,285.21 |
| Total | | | 24,981.86 | | | | 50,948.15 | | 75,930.01 |

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR DEBBIE STABENOW,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, Dec. 31, 2014.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2014

| Name and country | Name of currency | Per diem | | Transportation | | Miscellaneous | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency |
| Shannon Hines: | | | | | | | | | |
| France | Euro | | 1,664.00 | | 270.00 | | | | 1,934.00 |
| Hungary | Forint | | 500.61 | | 27.13 | | | | 527.74 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 10,630.40 | | | | 10,630.40 |
| Tim Rieser: | | | | | | | | | |
| Cuba | Peso | | 506.00 | | | | | | 506.00 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 1,127.00 | | 20.00 | | 1,147.00 |
| Paul Grove: | | | | | | | | | |
| Dem. Rep. Congo | Franc | | 1,043.00 | | | | | | 1,043.00 |
| Kenya | Shilling | | 1,080.00 | | 1,560.00 | | | | 2,640.00 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 4,816.40 | | | | 4,816.40 |
| Adam Yezerski: | | | | | | | | | |
| Dem. Rep. Congo | Franc | | 1,093.00 | | | | | | 1,093.00 |
| Kenya | Shilling | | 1,130.00 | | 1,560.00 | | | | 2,690.00 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 4,816.40 | | | | 4,816.40 |
| Delegation Expenses: * | | | | | | | | | |
| Kenya | Shilling | | | | 1,213.50 | | 51.32 | | 1,264.82 |
| Total | | | 7,016,61 | | 26,020.83 | | 71.32 | | 33,108.76 |

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR BARBARA A. MIKULSKI,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, Jan. 23, 2015.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2014

| Name and country | Name of currency | Per diem | | Transportation | | Miscellaneous | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency |
| Mike Kuiken: | | | | | | | | | |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 13,046.00 | | | | 13,046.00 |
| United Arab Emirates | Dirham | | 736.09 | | | | | | 736.09 |
| Afghanistan | Afghani | | 20.50 | | | | | | 20.50 |

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2014—Continued

| Name and country | Name of currency | Per diem | | Transportation | | Miscellaneous | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency |
| Mike Noblet: | | | | | | | | | |
| United States | Dollar | | 4.00 | | 13,140.00 | | | | 13,144.00 |
| United Arab Emirates | Dirham | | 163.00 | | | | 410.00 | | 573.00 |
| Adam Barker: | | | | | | | | | |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 13,046.00 | | | | 13,046.00 |
| United Arab Emirates | Dirham | | 445.83 | | | | | | 445.83 |
| Afghanistan | Afghani | | 20.50 | | | | | | 20.50 |
| Tom Goffus: | | | | | | | | | |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 13,046.00 | | | | 13,046.00 |
| United Arab Emirates | Dirham | | 445.83 | | | | | | 445.83 |
| Afghanistan | Afghani | | 20.50 | | | | | | 20.50 |
| Delegation Expenses:* | | | | | | | | | |
| United Arab Emirates | Dirham | | | | 211.23 | | | | 211.23 |
| Senator Tim Kaine: | | | | | | | | | |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 13,050.77 | | | | 13,050.77 |
| India | Rupee | | 1,184.85 | | | | | | 1,184.85 |
| Afghanistan | Afghani | | 69.00 | | | | | | 69.00 |
| Pakistan | Rupee | | 104.00 | | | | | | 104.00 |
| Qatar | Riyal | | 164.00 | | | | | | 164.00 |
| Karen Courington: | | | | | | | | | |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 12,970.40 | | | | 12,970.40 |
| India | Rupee | | 1,253.42 | | | | | | 1,253.42 |
| Afghanistan | Afghani | | 69.00 | | | | | | 69.00 |
| Pakistan | Rupee | | 224.00 | | | | | | 224.00 |
| Qatar | Riyal | | 164.00 | | | | | | 164.00 |
| Senator Angus King: | | | | | | | | | |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 14,604.72 | | | | 14,604.72 |
| India | Rupee | | 876.95 | | | | 72.20 | | 949.15 |
| Afghanistan | Afghani | | 69.00 | | | | | | 69.00 |
| Pakistan | Rupee | | 94.00 | | | | 10.00 | | 104.00 |
| Qatar | Riyal | | 164.00 | | | | | | 164.00 |
| Stephen Smith: | | | | | | | | | |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 14,604.72 | | | | 14,604.72 |
| India | Rupee | | 876.95 | | 50.44 | | 96.58 | | 1,023.97 |
| Afghanistan | Afghani | | 69.00 | | | | | | 69.00 |
| Pakistan | Rupee | | 94.00 | | | | 10.00 | | 104.00 |
| Qatar | Riyal | | 164.00 | | | | | | 164.00 |
| Delegation Expenses:* | | | | | | | | | |
| India | Rupee | | | | | | 561.73 | | 561.73 |
| Pakistan | Rupee | | | | | | 132.45 | | 132.45 |
| Qatar | Riyal | | | | | | 59.31 | | 59.31 |
| Senator James Inhofe: | | | | | | | | | |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 11,644.80 | | | | 11,644.80 |
| Ukraine | Hryvnia | | 421.01 | | | | | | 421.01 |
| Jordan | Dinar | | 191.00 | | | | | | 191.00 |
| Germany | Euro | | 391.09 | | | | | | 391.09 |
| Tom Goffus: | | | | | | | | | |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 11,644.80 | | | | 11,644.80 |
| Ukraine | Hryvnia | | 421.01 | | | | | | 421.01 |
| Jordan | Dinar | | 191.00 | | | | | | 191.00 |
| Germany | Euro | | 391.09 | | | | | | 391.09 |
| Delegation Expenses:* | | | | | | | | | |
| Ukraine | Hryvnia | | | | | | 200.44 | | 200.44 |
| Jordan | Dinar | | | | 196.08 | | 362.58 | | 558.66 |
| Germany | Euro | | | | | | 1,619.01 | | 1,619.01 |
| Lithuania | Euro | | | | | | 356.91 | | 356.91 |
| Senator John McCain: | | | | | | | | | |
| Canada | Dollar | | 611.42 | | | | | | 611.42 |
| Christian Brose: | | | | | | | | | |
| Canada | Dollar | | 675.57 | | | | | | 675.57 |
| Elizabeth O'Bagy: | | | | | | | | | |
| Canada | Dollar | | 649.77 | | | | | | 649.77 |
| Senator Ted Cruz: | | | | | | | | | |
| Canada | Dollar | | 604.41 | | | | | | 604.41 |
| Victoria Coates: | | | | | | | | | |
| Canada | Dollar | | 677.57 | | | | | | 677.57 |
| Senator Tim Kaine: | | | | | | | | | |
| Canada | Dollar | | 587.17 | | | | | | 587.17 |
| Karen Courington: | | | | | | | | | |
| Canada | Dollar | | 600.01 | | | | | | 600.01 |
| Mary Naylor: | | | | | | | | | |
| Canada | Dollar | | 590.76 | | | | | | 590.76 |
| Delegation Expenses:* | | | | | | | | | |
| Canada | Dollar | | | | 371.87 | | 9,185.61 | | 9,557.48 |
| Jonathan Epstein: | | | | | | | | | |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 8,098.00 | | | | 8,098.00 |
| Turkey | Lira | | 200.00 | | | | | | 200.00 |
| Delegation Expenses:* | | | | | | | | | |
| Turkey | Lira | | | | | | 8.51 | | 8.51 |
| Senator John McCain: | | | | | | | | | |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 16,336.52 | | | | 16,336.52 |
| Turkey | Lira | | 129.00 | | | | | | 129.00 |
| Elizabeth O'Bagy: | | | | | | | | | |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 14,333.43 | | | | 14,333.43 |
| Afghanistan | Afghani | | 112.00 | | | | | | 112.00 |
| Iraq | Dinar | | 61.00 | | | | | | 61.00 |
| Turkey | Lira | | 140.10 | | | | | | 140.10 |
| Delegation Expenses:* | | | | | | | | | |
| Afghanistan | Afghani | | 156.00 | | | | | | 156.00 |
| United Arab Emirates | Dirham | | | | | | 286.90 | | 286.90 |
| Iraq | Dinar | | | | 33,000.00 | | | | 33,000.00 |
| Turkey | Lira | | | | | | 20,596.00 | | 20,596.00 |
| Total | | | 15,297.50 | | 203,395.78 | | 33,968.23 | | 252,661.51 |

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR JOHN MCCAIN,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, Jan. 30, 2015.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 30, 2014

| Name and country | Name of currency | Per diem | | Transportation | | Miscellaneous | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency |
| Senator Elizabeth Warren: | | | | | | | | | |
| Israel | Shekel | | 2,695.19 | | | | | | 2,695.19 |
| Jordan | Dinar | | 368.86 | | | | | | 368.86 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 8,964.52 | | | | 8,964.52 |
| Jonathan Donenberg: | | | | | | | | | |
| Israel | Shekel | | 2,664.89 | | | | | | 2,664.89 |
| Jordan | Dinar | | 357.90 | | | | | | 357.90 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 7,504.02 | | | | 7,504.02 |
| Total | | | 6,086.84 | | 16,468.54 | | | | 22,555.38 |

SENATOR TIM JOHNSON,
Chairman, Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs,
Dec. 18, 2014.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2014

| Name and country | Name of currency | Per diem | | Transportation | | Miscellaneous | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency |
| Kusai Merchant: | | | | | | | | | |
| Peru | Sole | | 754.00 | | | | 3,041.50 | | 3,795.50 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 1,000.93 | | | | 1,000.93 |
| Total | | | 754.00 | | 1,000.93 | | 3,041.50 | | 4,796.43 |

SENATOR PATTY MURRAY,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget, Dec. 31, 2014.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2014

| Name and country | Name of currency | Per diem | | Transportation | | Miscellaneous | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency |
| Ellen Doneski: | | | | | | | | | |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 19,109.90 | | | | 19,109.90 |
| South Korea | Won | | 2,308.88 | | | | | | 2,308.88 |
| John Branscome: | | | | | | | | | |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 19,112.90 | | | | 19,112.90 |
| South Korea | Won | | 2,442.88 | | | | | | 2,442.88 |
| Total | | | 4,751.76 | | 38,222.80 | | | | 42,974.56 |

SENATOR JOHN THUNE,
Chairman, Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation,
Jan. 29, 2015.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2014

| Name and country | Name of currency | Per diem | | Transportation | | Miscellaneous | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency |
| Senator Lisa Murkowski: | | | | | | | | | |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 3,638.90 | | | | 3,638.90 |
| Iceland | Krona | | 589.17 | | | | | | 589.17 |
| Isaac Edwards: | | | | | | | | | |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 2,182.00 | | | | 2,182.00 |
| Iceland | Krona | | 855.55 | | | | | | 855.55 |
| Delegation Expenses: | | | | | | | | | |
| Iceland | Krona | | | | | | 651.57 | | 651.57 |
| Total | | | 1,444.72 | | 5,820.90 | | 651.57 | | 7,917.19 |

SENATOR MARY L. LANDRIEU,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Dec. 17, 2014.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(B), COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2014

| Name and country | Name of currency | Per diem | | Transportation | | Miscellaneous | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency |
| Joseph Mendelson: | | | | | | | | | |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 3,550.34 | | | | 3,550.34 |
| Peru | Nuevo Sol | | 3,448.00 | | | | | | 3,448.00 |
| Emily Enderle: | | | | | | | | | |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 1,105.84 | | | | 1,105.84 |
| Peru | Nuevo Sol | | 3,086.00 | | | | | | 3,086.00 |
| Total | | | 6,534.00 | | 4,656.18 | | | | 11,190.18 |

SENATOR JAMES M. INHOFE,
Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works, Jan. 23, 2015.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2014

| Name and country | Name of currency | Per diem | | Transportation | | Miscellaneous | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency |
| Jayme White: | | | | | | | | | |
| Australia | Dollar | | 2,412.29 | | | | | | 2,412.29 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 17,822.80 | | | | 17,822.80 |
| Elissa Alben: | | | | | | | | | |
| Australia | Dollar | | 2,961.84 | | | | | | 2,961.84 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 17,822.80 | | | | 17,822.80 |
| Everett Eissenstat: | | | | | | | | | |
| Australia | Dollar | | 2,856.91 | | | | | | 2,856.91 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 17,822.80 | | | | 17,822.80 |
| Shane Warren: | | | | | | | | | |
| Australia | Dollar | | 2,917.70 | | | | | | 2,917.70 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 17,822.80 | | | | 17,822.80 |
| Delegation Expenses: * | | | | | | | | | |
| United States | Dollar | | | | | | 1,057.00 | | 1,057.00 |
| Tyler Brace: | | | | | | | | | |
| Ukraine | Hryvnia | | 1,802.21 | | | | | | 1,802.21 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 8,762.70 | | | | 8,762.70 |
| Delegation Expenses: * | | | | | | | | | |
| United States | Dollar | | | | | | 365.70 | | 365.70 |
| Jason Park: | | | | | | | | | |
| China | Renminbi | | 1,162.22 | | | | | | 1,162.22 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 20,238.30 | | | | 20,238.30 |
| Shane Warren: | | | | | | | | | |
| China | Renminbi | | 1,165.97 | | | | | | 1,165.97 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 20,238.30 | | | | 20,238.30 |
| Delegation Expenses: * | | | | | | | | | |
| United States | Dollar | | | | | | 1,240.47 | | 1,240.47 |
| Senator Pat Roberts: | | | | | | | | | |
| Kuwait | Dinar | | 297.28 | | | | | | 297.28 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 22,480.90 | | | | 22,480.90 |
| Theda Khrestin: | | | | | | | | | |
| Kuwait | Dinar | | 346.28 | | | | | | 346.28 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 22,480.90 | | | | 22,480.90 |
| Delegation Expenses: * | | | | | | | | | |
| Iraq | Dinar | | | | | | 22,917.70 | | 22,917.70 |
| Total | | | 15,922.70 | | 165,492.30 | | 25,580.87 | | 206,995.87 |

* Delegation expenses include transportation, embassy overtime and other official expenses in accordance with the responsibilities of the host country.

SENATOR RON WYDEN,
Chairman, Committee on Finance, Jan. 13, 2015.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2014

| Name and country | Name of currency | Per diem | | Transportation | | Miscellaneous | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency |
| Senator John Barrasso: | | | | | | | | | |
| Canada | Dollar | | 594.99 | | | | | | 594.99 |
| Delegation Expenses: * | | | | | | | | | |
| Canada | Dollar | | | | | | 804.16 | | 804.16 |
| Senator John Barrasso: | | | | | | | | | |
| Qatar | Riyal | | 231.00 | | | | | | 231.00 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 10,361.10 | | | | 10,361.10 |
| Charles Ziegler: | | | | | | | | | |
| Qatar | Riyal | | 231.00 | | | | | | 231.00 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 9,966.00 | | | | 9,966.00 |
| Delegation Expenses: * | | | | | | | | | |
| Qatar | Riyal | | | | | | 283.27 | | 283.27 |
| Senator Christopher Coons: | | | | | | | | | |
| Liberia | Dollar | | 682.50 | | | | | | 682.50 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 10,287.80 | | | | 10,287.80 |
| Vali Sanmugalingan: | | | | | | | | | |
| Liberia | Dollar | | 700.50 | | | | | | 700.50 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 10,287.80 | | | | 10,287.80 |
| Delegation Expenses: * | | | | | | | | | |
| Liberia | Dollar | | | | | | 2,500.73 | | 2,500.73 |
| Senator Jeff Flake: | | | | | | | | | |
| Cuba | Dollar | | 849.00 | | | | | | 849.00 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 1,094.20 | | | | 1,094.20 |
| Chandler Morse: | | | | | | | | | |
| Cuba | Dollar | | 849.00 | | | | | | 849.00 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 923.20 | | | | 923.20 |
| Senator Tom Udall: | | | | | | | | | |
| Cuba | Dollar | | 849.00 | | | | | | 849.00 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 918.20 | | | | 918.20 |
| Matthew Padilla: | | | | | | | | | |
| Cuba | Dollar | | 849.00 | | | | | | 849.00 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 918.20 | | | | 918.20 |
| Senator Christopher Murphy: | | | | | | | | | |
| Serbia | Euro | | 823.00 | | | | | | 823.00 |
| Montenegro | Euro | | 335.00 | | | | | | 335.00 |
| Kosovo | Euro | | 195.00 | | | | | | 195.00 |
| Albania | Lek | | 364.00 | | | | | | 364.00 |
| Croatia | Kuna | | 282.00 | | | | | | 282.00 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 10,640.10 | | | | 10,640.10 |
| Jessica Elledge: | | | | | | | | | |
| Serbia | Euro | | 823.00 | | | | | | 823.00 |
| Montenegro | Euro | | 335.00 | | | | | | 335.00 |
| Kosovo | Euro | | 195.00 | | | | | | 195.00 |
| Albania | Lek | | 364.00 | | | | | | 364.00 |
| Croatia | Kuna | | 282.00 | | | | | | 282.00 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 11,917.50 | | | | 11,917.50 |
| Delegation Expenses: * | | | | | | | | | |
| Serbia | Euro | | | | | | 1,416.00 | | 1,416.00 |
| Montenegro | Euro | | | | | | 1,130.00 | | 1,130.00 |
| Kosovo | Euro | | | | | | 1,329.57 | | 1,329.57 |
| Albania | Lek | | | | | | 1,711.00 | | 1,711.000 |
| Croatia | Kuna | | | | | | 826.00 | | 826.00 |

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2014—Continued

| Name and country | Name of currency | Per diem | | Transportation | | Miscellaneous | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency |
| Sergio Aguirre: | | | | | | | | | |
| India | Rupee | | 1,253.42 | | | | | | 1,253.42 |
| Afghanistan | Dollar | | 69.00 | | | | | | 69.00 |
| Pakistan | Rupee | | 104.00 | | | | | | 104.00 |
| Qatar | Riyal | | 5.55 | | | | | | 5.55 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 12,970.40 | | | | 12,970.40 |
| Delegation Expenses:* | | | | | | | | | |
| India | Rupee | | | | | | 374.48 | | 374.48 |
| Pakistan | Rupee | | | | | | 88.30 | | 88.30 |
| Qatar | Riyal | | | | | | 39.54 | | 39.54 |
| Viviana Bovo: | | | | | | | | | |
| Colombia | Peso | | 345.81 | | | | | | 345.81 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 3,871.00 | | | | 3,871.00 |
| Ana Unruh Cohen: | | | | | | | | | |
| Peru | Nuevo Sol | | 2,852.00 | | | | | | 2,852.00 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 2,729.94 | | | | 2,729.94 |
| Hal Connolly: | | | | | | | | | |
| Peru | Nuevo Sol | | 2,180.00 | | | | | | 2,180.00 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 2,719.94 | | | | 2,719.94 |
| Jesse Young: | | | | | | | | | |
| Peru | Nuevo Sol | | 2,844.00 | | | | | | 2,844.00 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 1,035.94 | | | | 1,035.94 |
| Michael Gallagher: | | | | | | | | | |
| Turkey | Lira | | 335.21 | | | | | | 335.21 |
| Saudi Arabia | Riyal | | 1,301.00 | | | | | | 1,301.00 |
| Qatar | Riyal | | 451.90 | | | | | | 451.90 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 4,262.00 | | | | 4,262.00 |
| Dana Stroul: | | | | | | | | | |
| Turkey | Lira | | 249.00 | | | | | | 249.00 |
| Saudi Arabia | Riyal | | 1,025.25 | | | | | | 1,025.25 |
| Qatar | Riyal | | 829.66 | | | | | | 829.66 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 3,969.40 | | | | 3,969.40 |
| Delegation Expenses:* | | | | | | | | | |
| Turkey | Lira | | | | | | 113.37 | | 113.37 |
| Saudi Arabia | Riyal | | | | | | 1,134.68 | | 1,134.68 |
| Qatar | Riyal | | | | | | 102.97 | | 102.97 |
| Jodi Herman: | | | | | | | | | |
| Austria | Euro | | 683.65 | | | | | | 683.65 |
| France | Euro | | 489.78 | | | | | | 489.78 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 2,267.70 | | | | 2,267.70 |
| Lowell Schwartz: | | | | | | | | | |
| Austria | Euro | | 671.26 | | | | | | 671.26 |
| France | Euro | | 617.65 | | | | | | 617.65 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 2,232.70 | | | | 2,232.70 |
| Delegation Expenses:* | | | | | | | | | |
| Austria | Euro | | | | | | 845.06 | | 845.06 |
| France | Euro | | | | | | 990.00 | | 990.00 |
| Chris Homan: | | | | | | | | | |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | | 412.27 | | | | | | 412.27 |
| Vietnam | Dong | | 294.60 | | | | | | 294.60 |
| South Korea | Won | | 308.18 | | | | | | 308.18 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 8,118.41 | | | | 8,118.41 |
| Delegation Expenses:* | | | | | | | | | |
| Vietnam | Dong | | | | | | 14.40 | | 14.40 |
| South Korea | Won | | | | | | 616.99 | | 616.99 |
| Damian Murphy: | | | | | | | | | |
| Bangladesh | Taka | | 695.00 | | | | | | 695.00 |
| Nepal | Rupee | | 813.59 | | | | | | 813.59 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 5,439.17 | | | | 5,439.17 |
| Charlotte Oldham-Moore: | | | | | | | | | |
| Bangladesh | Taka | | 695.00 | | | | | | 695.00 |
| Nepal | Rupee | | 813.59 | | | | | | 813.59 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 5,439.17 | | | | 5,439.17 |
| Stacie Oliver: | | | | | | | | | |
| Turkey | Lira | | 316.21 | | | | | | 316.21 |
| Kuwait | Dinar | | 350.24 | | | | | | 350.24 |
| Jordan | Dinar | | 445.25 | | | | | | 445.25 |
| Egypt | Pound | | 725.31 | | | | | | 725.31 |
| Germany | Euro | | 341.66 | | | | | | 341.66 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 3,528.70 | | | | 3,528.70 |
| Delegation Expenses:* | | | | | | | | | |
| Kuwait | Dinar | | | | | | 205.86 | | 205.86 |
| Jordan | Dinar | | | | | | 190.22 | | 190.22 |
| Egypt | Pound | | | | | | 164.00 | | 164.00 |
| Germany | Euro | | | | | | 11.32 | | 11.32 |
| Chris Socha: | | | | | | | | | |
| Poland | Zloty | | 600.00 | | | | | | 600.00 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 3,596.70 | | | | 3,596.70 |
| Daniel Vajdich: | | | | | | | | | |
| Montenegro | Euro | | 285.00 | | | | | | 285.00 |
| Moldova | Leu | | 1,014.00 | | | | | | 1,014.00 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 3,956.00 | | | | 3,956.00 |
| Delegation Expenses:* | | | | | | | | | |
| Montenegro | Euro | | | | | | 144.00 | | 144.00 |
| Moldova | Leu | | | | | | 138.70 | | 138.70 |
| Brandon Yoder: | | | | | | | | | |
| Honduras | Lempira | | 714.00 | | | | | | 714.00 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 1,059.20 | | | | 1,059.20 |
| Delegation Expenses:* | | | | | | | | | |
| Honduras | Lempira | | | | | | 394.00 | | 394.00 |
| Totals: | | | 34,966.03 | | 134,510.57 | | 15,568.62 | | 185,045.22 |

*Delegation expenses included payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR BOB CORKER,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, Jan. 28, 2014.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2014

| Name and country | Name of currency | Per diem | | Transportation | | Miscellaneous | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency |
| Senator Robert Casey: | | | | | | | | | |
| Norway | Kroner | | 163.96 | | | | | | 163.96 |
| Caitlin Gearen: | | | | | | | | | |
| Norway | Kroner | | 306.74 | | | | | | 306.74 |
| Delegation Expenses:* | | | | | | | | | |
| Norway | Kroner | | | | | | 713.26 | | 713.26 |
| Total | | | 470.70 | | | | 713.26 | | 1,183.96 |

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR LAMAR ALEXANDER,
Chairman, Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions,
Jan. 26, 2015.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 30, 2014

| Name and country | Name of currency | Per diem | | Transportation | | Miscellaneous | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency |
| Jim Catella: | | | | | | | | | |
| India | Dollar | | 670.00 | | | | | | 670.00 |
| Afghanistan | Dollar | | 56.00 | | | | | | 56.00 |
| Pakistan | Dollar | | 180.00 | | | | | | 180.00 |
| Doha | Dollar | | 164.00 | | | | | | 164.00 |
| Senator Marco Rubio: | | | | | | | | | |
| Colombia | Dollar | | 155.00 | | 4,139.70 | | | | 4,294.70 |
| Brian Walsh: | | | | | | | | | |
| Colombia | Dollar | | 155.00 | | 4,139.70 | | | | 4,294.70 |
| Total | | | 1,380.00 | | 8,279.40 | | | | 9,659.40 |

SENATOR DIANNE FEINSTEIN,
Chairman, Committee on Intelligence, Dec. 23, 2014.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2014

| Name and country | Name of currency | Per diem | | Transportation | | Miscellaneous | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency |
| David Killion: | | | | | | | | | |
| Germany | Euro | | 1,307.55 | | | | | | 1,307.55 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 12,130.50 | | | | 12,130.50 |
| Switzerland | Franc | | 2,663.44 | | | | | | 2,663.44 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 11,905.70 | | | | 11,905.70 |
| Erika Schlager: | | | | | | | | | |
| Poland | Zloty | | 3,216.00 | | | | | | 3,216.00 |
| Austria | Euro | | 417.00 | | | | | | 417.00 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 4,794.50 | | | | 4,794.50 |
| Switzerland | Franc | | 2,663.44 | | | | | | 2,663.44 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 2,000.30 | | | | 2,000.30 |
| Mischa Thompson: | | | | | | | | | |
| Germany | Euro | | 1,985.00 | | | | | | 1,985.00 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 1,797.60 | | | | 1,797.60 |
| Alex Johnson: | | | | | | | | | |
| Poland | Zloty | | 3,637.04 | | | | | | 3,637.04 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 759.37 | | | | 759.37 |
| Germany | Euro | | 1,286.63 | | | | | | 1,286.63 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 960.50 | | | | 960.50 |
| Switzerland | Franc | | 2,219.53 | | | | | | 2,219.53 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 1,156.10 | | | | 1,156.10 |
| Austria | Euro | | 23,300.78 | | | | | | 23,300.78 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 1,074.90 | | | | 1,074.90 |
| Robert Hand: | | | | | | | | | |
| Switzerland | Franc | | 1,632.72 | | | | | | 1,632.72 |
| Boznia and Herzegov | Mark | | 1,372.00 | | | | | | 1,372.00 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 3,359.70 | | | | 3,359.70 |
| Orest Deychakiwsky: | | | | | | | | | |
| Ukraine | Hryvnia | | 1,765.00 | | | | | | 1,765.00 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 1,692.40 | | | | 1,692.40 |
| Allison Hollabaugh: | | | | | | | | | |
| Austria | Euro | | 807.50 | | | | | | 807.50 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 1,750.50 | | | | 1,750.50 |
| Shelly Han: | | | | | | | | | |
| Moldova | Leu | | 1,156.00 | | | | | | 1,156.00 |
| Germany | Euro | | 298.58 | | | | | | 298.58 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 4,331.20 | | | | 4,331.20 |
| David Kostelancik: | | | | | | | | | |
| Switzerland | Franc | | 1,951.44 | | | | | | 1,951.44 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 4,714.30 | | | | 4,714.30 |
| Janice Helwig: | | | | | | | | | |
| Switzerland | Franc | | 2,489.44 | | | | | | 2,489.44 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 12,654.30 | | | | 12,654.30 |
| Poland | Zloty | | 3,492.08 | | | | | | 3,492.08 |
| United States | Dollar | | | | 3,048.50 | | | | 3,048.50 |
| Total | | | 57,661.17 | | 68,130.37 | | | | 125,791.54 |

SENATOR BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
Chairman, Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe,
Jan. 14, 2015.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), THE REPUBLICAN LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 30, 2014

| Name and country | Name of currency | Per diem | | Transportation | | Miscellaneous | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency |
| Thomas Hawkins: | | | | | | | | | |
| Turkey | Dollar | | 284.00 | | | | 32.75 | | 316.75 |
| Saudi Arabia | Dollar | | 505.00 | | | | 233.00 | | 738.00 |
| Kuwait | Dollar | | 386.28 | | | | 125.00 | | 511.28 |
| Total | | | 1,175.28 | | | | 390.75 | | 1,566.03 |

SENATOR MITCH MCCONNELL,
The Republican Leader, Jan. 30, 2015.

## UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—READING OF WASHINGTON'S FAREWELL ADDRESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the resolution of the Senate of January 24, 1901, the traditional reading of Washington's Farewell Address take place on Monday, February 23, following the prayer and pledge; further, that Senator HOEVEN be recognized to deliver the address.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2015

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, February 10; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 12:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, and that the first hour be equally divided, with the Democrats controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half. I further ask that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow the for weekly conference meetings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Reserving the right to object, may I have one sentence to observe that there appears as yet to be no Republican plan whatsoever to answer the energy chairman's question on climate change—what do we do—and with that noted, I do not object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I would just say to my friend from Rhode Island that the Senator knows we just finished a lengthy floor consideration of the Keystone bill, with an open amendment process on this and other energy-related topics. The Senate voted on several amendments on climate change, including two from the Senator from Rhode Island, which is more opportunities to vote on these amendments than during the entire 113th Congress.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, may I say how much I appreciate the open amendment process.

## ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator BROWN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it so ordered.

## APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to the order of the Senate of January 24, 1901, as modified by the order of February 9, 2015, appoints the Senator from North Dakota, Mr. HOEVEN, to read Washington's Farewell Address on Monday, February 23, 2015.

The Senator from Ohio is recognized.

## PRIORITY REGISTRATION FOR VETERANS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, this week we celebrate Salute to Veterans Week to honor all those who have served our Nation in uniform and their families who sacrificed so much for our country.

This week is a particularly appropriate time for us to reflect on the importance of fulfilling our commitment to all veterans. Just as we invest in and train our men and women during their military service, we must make the same investments when they return to our communities, hang up their uniforms, and embark on the next phase of their lives. This institution always seems to be willing to vote for money so we can send people to war, but is a bit less generous in taking care of those veterans when they return home. That should stop.

This morning I visited Eastern Gateway Community College in Youngstown and met with local veterans, including community college graduate Lisa Thomas. She graduated last May and is now pursuing a 4-year degree—after getting a 2-year degree—at Franklin University using her GI benefits.

Community colleges like Eastern Gateway are an important way we provide our veterans with the necessary skills to find decent-paying jobs. They serve as pipelines for veterans so they can attend 4-year universities.

The GI bill's education benefits are critical to investing in returning servicemembers. They help the veterans who have returned from war to learn new skills, and as a result these men and women have helped to build our middle class and led to our Nation's dominance in the second half of the 20th century and into this century. But veterans, as some find out unwittingly, have a limited amount of time before their GI benefits expire.

At crowded colleges, general education requirements and prerequisites often fill up quickly, and it can take several semesters for that veteran to secure a spot. Waiting for a spot in a required course is a luxury many veterans don't have because those veterans benefits could expire. If student veterans are unable to finish their degrees before these benefits expire, they may end up being forced to pay thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket tuition and fees. The veterans who served our Nation without delay should not face delays in getting their education.

Many colleges and universities—Youngstown State, which is the same place where the Eastern Gateway campus in Youngstown is located, is where many Eastern Gateway students complete their degrees. They offer veterans priority registration so they can get the courses they need before their benefits run out.

All of our colleges and universities—2-year, 4-year, public and private—need to follow Youngstown State's lead. If student athletes have priority registration, we can surely extend that privilege to those who have served our Nation. That is why in the coming

months I will introduce legislation to ensure that all veterans, all servicemembers, and their qualifying dependents can use their GI benefits to their full potential and be guaranteed priority registration. Our veterans have earned these benefits, and we must ensure that all of our veterans, such as Lisa Thomas, are able to take full advantage of those benefits for themselves and for their families. It is our duty to ensure that when veterans return home, they have the education and training and access to jobs they need to fulfill their potential. We have a duty to ensure that those returning from service to our Nation get the care they need when they come home.

As the first Ohioan to serve a full term on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I have worked to ease the VA backlog and put in place a better system. The shortage of care providers has been especially pressing for veterans struggling with a brain injury—the so-called invisible injuries.

When our country went into Iraq a dozen years ago, our leader said that this will be a short war. Our country, our government, our administration, and our Congress failed to scale up veterans hospitals and veterans care and increase the capacity, and we now find it is too small. That is the importance of making sure we do this right.

Nearly 300,000 veterans in this country struggle with post-traumatic distress. Out of an estimated 300,000 traumatic brain injuries, there are 25,000 cases of mild traumatic brain injuries. These cases are hard to diagnose and document since there is often a lack of visible evidence.

Without proper care, each year some 8,000 veterans take their own lives—154 a week, 22 veterans a day commit suicide. What a tragedy. Last week I was proud to stand with my colleagues in this body in support of the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act. I look forward to President Obama signing that bill later this week. It is our duty to take an active role in increasing veterans' access to quality mental health care, and the Clay Hunt Act will help ensure that those who put their lives on the line for us have a lifetime of their own upon returning home. We have a sacred trust between our government and those who protect us all.

I yield the floor.

## ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:20 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, February 10, 2015, at 10 a.m.

## CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate February 9, 2015:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MICHAEL P. BOTTICELLI, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY.

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 9, 2015*

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, from Monday, February 2, 2015 to Thursday, February 5, 2015 I had to remain in California and was unable to vote.

Had I been present on the House floor on Monday, February 2, 2015, I would have voted ''aye'' on roll call No. 51, H.R. 361, the Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act. I would have also voted ''aye'' on roll call No. 52, H.R. 615, the Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act and ''aye'' on roll call No. 53, H.R. 623, the Social Media Working Group Act of 2015.

On Tuesday, February 3, 2015, I would have voted ''nay'' on roll call No. 54, H. Res. 70, On Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule Providing for Consideration of H.R. 596, To Repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and health care-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, and ''nay'' on roll call No. 55, H. Res. 70, the Rule Providing for Consideration of H.R. 596. I would have also voted ''aye'' on roll call No. 56, on Approving the Journal, and ''aye'' on roll call No. 57, on the Democratic Motion to Recommit on H.R. 596 with Instructions. I would have voted ''nay'' on roll call No. 58, on Passage of H.R. 596.

On Wednesday, February 4, 2015, I would have voted ''nay'' on roll call No. 59, Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 50, the Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act of 2015, and H.R. 527, the Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act of 2015, and ''nay'' on roll call No. 60, H. Res. 78, the Rule Providing for Consideration of H.R. 50 and H.R. 527. I would have also voted ''aye'' on roll call No. 61, H.R. 50, the Cummings of Maryland Part C Amendment No. 2, and ''aye'' on roll call No. 62, H.R. 50, the Connolly of Virginia Part C Amendment No. 3. I would have also voted ''aye'' on roll call No. 63, the Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 50 with Instructions, and ''nay'' on roll call No. 64, on Passage of H.R. 50.

On Thursday, February 5, 2015, I would have voted ''aye'' on roll call No. 65, H.R. 527, the Schrader of Oregon Part A Amendment No. 4, and ''aye'' on roll call No. 66, H.R. 527, the Jackson Lee of Texas Part A Amendment No. 6. I would have also voted ''aye'' on roll call No. 67, on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 527 with Instructions, and ''nay'' on roll call No. 68, on Passage of H.R. 527.

## REINTRODUCING THE LENA HORNE RECOGNITION ACT OF 2015

### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 9, 2015*

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Lena Horne Recognition Act of 2015, which would award the Congressional Gold Medal to the late, renowned singer, actress, and Civil Rights icon, Ms. Lena Mary Calhoun Horne.

As an African American woman born in 1917, Ms. Horne, who passed away in 2010, was truly a woman of firsts, having pioneered the way for many men and women of color through her work in Jazz, film, and the Civil Rights movement. She began her career in the chorus line at Harlem's famed Cotton Club before moving on to record dozens of musical tracks and playing roles in movies and musicals.

As a young woman, Lena drew much fame from her beauty and talent, yet found many roadblocks in her personal success due to the hyper-racialized nature of show business at the time. However, this adversity would not limit her, and presented a platform for her increasing support of and action in the Civil Rights movement.

The first to do so, Lena signed a long term contract with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM) and embarked on a career in Hollywood, as her celebrity had been noticed by many, despite the color of her skin. She was also the first African American woman to be nominated for a Tony Award. However, again, she found road blocks in her professional life, due to state-law restrictions in on-screen interracial relationships as well as the need to have her roles edited out for Jim Crow abiding viewers. Blacklisted during the period of McCarthyism in the 1950s, Ms. Horne still recorded what would become the best-selling album by a female singer in RCA Victor's history in 1957.

From music and film, Lena had built a substantial fan base, and by the 1960s, at the peak of the Civil Rights movement, she became a staple on television. She had become so renowned in popular culture despite her race that she appeared on shows such as the Dean Martin Show and Ed Sullivan Show. In 1970, Horne co-starred with well known actor, Harry Belafonte, on a show for ABC donning their names—''Harry and Lena.'' She would go on to play herself on The Muppet Show, Sesame Street, and Sanford and Son. In 1981, Lena then received two Grammy awards and a special Tony award for her cast recording of her Broadway show, Lena Horne: The Lady and Her Music. In 1989, she received a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award.

Amongst her many awards, Ms. Horne was the recipient of the Kennedy Center honor for lifetime contribution to the arts in 1984. She received two stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame—for her work in both motion pictures and recording—in addition to a footprint on the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame at the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site. Lena always fought back when opportunities presented themselves.

For example, during World War II, Lena had been slated to perform for segregated troops of U.S. servicemen. She was appalled to find that African American servicemen had been seated behind German prisoners of war, and refused to partake unless she could sing before an integrated group. As a compromise, Lena left the stage and sang directly in front of her African American counterparts, with the German prisoners of war to her rear.

Lena notably remained committed to bettering lives of the underserved and underrepresented for the entirety of her life. An active participant in the movement, Lena met President John F. Kennedy shortly before his assassination, marched in the March on Washington, and ultimately performed and spoke on behalf of the NAACP, SNCC, and National Council of Negro Women. Also notable is the work that she engaged in with former First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt to pass anti-lynching laws. Lena was awarded the Spingarn Medal from the NAACP in 1983.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in support of honoring Lena Horne posthumously with a Congressional Gold Medal, for her outstanding contributions to American culture and the Civil Rights Movement. A beautiful person inside and out, Lena willed her talent, intelligence, and fame to fight against discrimination, traversing her career on a road filled with potholes full of racial bias and degradation. Lena represents the very best of American ideals and signifies the true purpose of the American Dream.

## IN RECOGNITION OF DR. AZIZAH AL-HIBRI'S LIFETIME OF SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY ON BEHALF OF HUMAN RIGHTS

### HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 9, 2015*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Azizah al-Hibri, a distinguished women's and human rights advocate, on receiving the prestigious ACCESS Purple Rose Award. As a Member of Congress it is both my privilege and honor to recognize Dr. al-Hibri for her many years of service and contributions which have enriched and strengthened our community.

Dr. al-Hibri is the Founder and Chair of KARAMAH: Muslim Women Lawyers for Human Rights. KARAMAH is a nonprofit organization committed to promoting human rights throughout the globe, especially focusing on gender equity, religious freedom and civil rights in the United States. KARAMAH translates as ''dignity'' in Arabic and the stated vision of the organization is ''Dignity for All.'' In 1993, Dr. al-Hibri, then a law professor and

noted Islamic scholar at the University of Richmond, was inspired by the verse which reads: "We have given dignity to the Children of Adam." With faithful commitment to the idea that this verse establishes the fact that human dignity is bestowed upon all human beings, Dr. al-Hibri has committed herself to advancing this understanding of the unalienable rights of women, a cause she continues to champion today.

Dr. al-Hibri has dedicated her life to education, legal outreach and advocacy. Among her many accomplishments, Dr. al-Hibri is a Fulbright scholar and is the founding editor of the journal Hypatia, which is dedicated to Feminist philosophy, particularly as it relates to Muslim women. Recognizing the national importance of her voice and contributions, in 2011 President Obama appointed Dr. al-Hibri to U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, a truly deserved honor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Dr. al-Hibri for her many contributions to our community and her leadership in advancing Human Rights. I wish her many more years of health, happiness, and productive advocacy.

## HONORING THE LIFE OF THOMAS W. BIRMINGHAM

### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 9, 2015*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague Mr. LAMALFA to pay tribute to the life of Thomas "Tom" Birmingham, who passed away on January 8, 2015 at the age of 93. Tom was an extraordinary person, and he will always be remembered as a man who lived his life with purpose and great dedication to his students, family, friends and community.

Tom was born on March 21, 1922 to Thomas and Nell Birmingham in Red Bluff, California. He spent much of his childhood living in various northern California towns, as his father's career as a Highway Patrolman required. It was while living with his family in Westwood, California that Tom developed many life-long friendships and his happiest childhood memories. He graduated from Clarksburg High School in Clarksburg, California, now called Delta High School, in 1940.

World War II interrupted Tom's first attempt at attending college. He left school to join the United States Navy. In the Navy, Tom was assigned to Bombing Squadron Nineteen which flew off of the USS *Lexington*. Mr. Birmingham proudly served our country as an aviator, and was awarded an Air Medal and a Distinguished Flying Cross for his actions on October 25, 1944 during the Battle of Leyte Gulf. Tom was extremely proud of his service and of the men with whom he served on board the *Lexington*.

Mr. Birmingham continued his education after the War. He enrolled at San Jose State College and graduated in 1950. While at university, Tom competed in numerous track events including the high hurdle and the triple jump, known at the time as the "hop, skip, jump." A talented, athletic individual, Mr. Birmingham garnered the reputation of a world class athlete. In addition to his skills on the track field, Tom was an avid skier, becoming one of the first instructors at the Mt. Shasta Herald Ski School.

It was while Tom studied at San Jose State College that he met the love of his life, Lulu Archer. Tom and Lulu were married in 1951 and stayed in the bay area for another year while Tom completed his teaching credential. Lulu truly was Tom's one and only. Later the same year, Tom and Lulu moved to Yreka, California where they grew their family with the addition of three children, Kate, Thomas, and John.

In Yreka, Mr. Birmingham accepted a teaching and coaching position at Yreka High School. As a teacher of art and history, Mr. Birmingham was able to motivate students and develop an excitement in them for learning and personal development. Additionally, coaching track and basketball allowed Tom to form lasting bonds with his students, many of whom he kept in contact throughout his life.

Following a distinguished 31 years at Yreka High School, Mr. Birmingham retired in 1983. Upon his retirement, Tom and Lulu made it a priority to travel together. He also accepted the responsibility of taking care of his wife in the latter stages of her illness. Several years after her passing in 1987, Tom chose to relocate to Redding, California to be closer to family, specifically his beloved grandchildren. Throughout his life, his hobbies included hunting, fishing, and, in retirement, restoring old cars.

Tom's friendliness and honest nature built many lasting friendships during his lifetime. His long and remarkable life is fondly remembered by colleagues, students, friends and family. Tom leaves behind his three children; Kate, Thomas, John, their spouses, and his grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join Mr. LAMALFA and me in saying farewell to a man from the greatest generation, Mr. Thomas W. Birmingham. His genuine character and his loving commitment to his family and community will be greatly missed.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 9, 2015*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for roll call votes 65–68 due to a family emergency.

Had I been present, I would have voted yes on #65, yes on #66, yes on #67, and no on #68.

## SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of 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, February 10, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

### MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 11

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the situation in Afghanistan.

SH–216

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed carbon dioxide emissions rules from new, modified, and existing power plants.

SD–406

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the National Labor Relations Board's (NLRB) new election rule, focusing on employers and employees.

SD–430

10 a.m.

Committee on the Budget

To hold hearings to examine Social Security disability trust fund insolvency.

SD–608

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the Internet.

SR–253

Committee on Finance

Business meeting to markup an original bill relating to access and administration of the U.S. Tax Court; an original bill to remove alcohol bonding requirements for certain taxpayers; an original bill relating to modifications to alternative tax for certain small insurance companies; an original bill to modify the excise tax on cider; an original bill to truncate the collection period for taxpayers hospitalized for combat zone injuries; an original bill to provide special rules concerning charitable contributions to, and public charity status of, agricultural research organizations; an original bill to provide an exception to the private foundation excess business holdings rules for certain philanthropic business holdings; an original bill to clarify a special rules for certain governmental plans; an original bill to modify the treatment of income received under student work-learning-service programs; an original bill for a waste-heat-to-power investment tax credit; an original bill to allow enrolled agents who meet certain requirements to use specified designations; an original bill relating to real estate investment trusts (REITs), regulated investment companies (RICs) and the Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act (FIRPTA); an original bill to exclude from gross income certain compensation received by public safety officers and their dependents; an original bill to convert the tax on liquefied natural gas and liquefied petroleum gas to an energy equivalent

basis; an original bill to require the Internal Revenue Service to notify exempt organizations before revoking exempt status for failing to file information returns; an original bill to exclude from gross income certain clean coal power grants; and an original bill to create a military spouse job continuity credit.

SD–215

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) 2015 list of high risk government programs.

SD–342

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine ending modern day slavery, focusing on the role of United States leadership.

SD–419

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of the Interior.

SD–192

2:45 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To receive a closed briefing on worldwide nuclear capabilities.

SVC–217

3 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Personnel

To hold hearings to examine the retirement and compensation proposals of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission.

SD–G50

FEBRUARY 12

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the situation in Afghanistan; to be immediately followed by a closed hearing in SVC–217.

SD–G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To resume hearings to examine regulatory relief for community banks and credit unions.

SD–538

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Energy.

SD–366

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Loretta E. Lynch, of New York, to be Attorney General, Daniel Henry Marti, of Virginia, to be Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, Executive Office of the President, Michelle K. Lee, of California, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Alfred H. Bennett, George C. Hanks, Jr., and Jose Rolando Olvera, Jr., each to be a United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, Jill N. Parrish, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah, and Nancy B. Firestone, of Virginia, Thomas L. Halkowski, of Pennsylvania, Patricia M. McCarthy, of Maryland, Jeri Kaylene Somers, of Virginia, and Armando Omar Bonilla, of the District of Columbia, each to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

SD–226

Committee on Rules and Administration

Business meeting to markup the Omnibus Budget resolution for Senate committees for the period March 1, 2015, through February 28, 2017, and an original resolution to amend Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

SR–301

12 noon

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to markup S. Res. 65, supporting efforts to bring an end to violence perpetrated by Boko Haram, and urging the Government of Nigeria to conduct transparent, peaceful, and credible elections, and an original resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the January 24, 2015, attacks carried out by Russian-backed rebels on the civilian population in Mariupol, Ukraine, and the provision of lethal and non-lethal military assistance to Ukraine.

S–116

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Closed business meeting to markup S. 165, to extend and enhance prohibitions and limitations with respect to the transfer or release of individuals detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

SVC–217

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH–216

FEBRUARY 24

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of the Interior.

SD–366

FEBRUARY 26

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016 for the Forest Service.

SD–366

MARCH 25

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To hold hearings to examine ballistic missile defense programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR–222

# *Daily Digest*

# Senate

## *Chamber Action*

*Routine Proceedings, pages S843–S872*

**Measures Introduced:** Ten bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 410–419, and S.J. Res. 8–9. **Page S858**

**Measures Reported:**

S. 295, to amend section 2259 of title 18, United States Code.

S. 337, to improve the Freedom of Information Act. **Page S858**

**Measures Considered:**

**Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act:** Senate resumed consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 240, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015. **Page S843**

**Appointments:**

***Washington's Farewell Address:*** The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to the order of the Senate of January 24, 1901, as modified by the order of February 9, 2015, appointed Senator Hoeven to read Washington's Farewell Address on Monday, February 23, 2015. **Page S871**

**Washington's Farewell Address—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding the resolution of the Senate of January 24, 1901, the traditional reading of Washington's Farewell Address take place on Monday, February 23, 2015, following the prayer and pledge; provided further, that Senator Hoeven be recognized to deliver the address. **Page S871**

**Nomination Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By a unanimous vote of 92 yeas (Vote No. EX. 54), Michael P. Botticelli, of the District of Columbia, to be Director of National Drug Control Policy. **Pages S852–53, S872**

**Messages from the House:** **Page S856**

**Measures Referred:** **Page S856**

**Measures Placed on the Calendar:** **Page S856**

**Executive Communications:** **Pages S856–58**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages S858–60**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:** **Pages S860–64**

**Additional Statements:** **Pages S854–56**

**Privileges of the Floor:** **Page S864**

**Record Votes:** One record vote was taken today. (Total—54) **Page S853**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 6:20 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, February 10, 2015. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S872.)

## *Committee Meetings*

*(Committees not listed did not meet)*

No committee meetings were held.

# House of Representatives

## *Chamber Action*

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 10 public bills, H.R. 810–819; and 2 resolutions, H.J. Res. 29; and H. Res. 97, were introduced. **Pages H865–66**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Page H867**

**Reports Filed:** Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 629, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the reduced recognition

period for built-in gains of S corporations, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–15);

H.R. 630, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent certain rules regarding basis adjustments to stock of S corporations making charitable contributions of property, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–16);

H.R. 641, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–17);

H.R. 644, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend and expand the charitable deduction for contributions of food inventory, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–18);

H.R. 640, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the tax rate for excise tax on investment income of private foundations, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–19, Part 1);

H.R. 637, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the rule allowing certain tax-free distributions from individual retirement accounts for charitable purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–20, Part 1); and

H.R. 636, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–21, Part 1). **Page H865**

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Harris to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H859**

**Select Committee on the Events Surrounding the 2012 Terrorist Attack in Benghazi—Appointment:** The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Select Committee on the Events Surrounding the 2012 Terrorist Attack in Benghazi: Representatives Cummings, Smith (WA), Schiff, Linda T. Sánchez (CA), and Duckworth. **Page H859**

**Whole Number of the House:** Under clause 5(d) of Rule 20, the Chair announced to the House that, in light of the passing of the gentleman from Mississippi, Mr. Nunnelee, the whole number of the House is 433. **Page H859**

**Senate Message:** Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on pages H859.

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** There were no yea-and-nay votes, and there were no recorded votes. There were no quorum calls.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 1 p.m. and adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

# *Committee Meetings*

No hearings were held.

# *Joint Meetings*

No joint committee meetings were held.

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2015

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

### Senate

*Committee on Armed Services:* to hold hearings to examine global challenges and the United States national security strategy, 9:30 a.m., SH–216.

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:* to hold hearings to examine regulatory relief for community banks and credit unions, 10 a.m., SD–538.

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security, to hold hearings to examine keeping goods moving, 10 a.m., SR–253.

*Committee on Finance:* to hold hearings to examine tax reform, focusing on lessons Congress can learn from the Tax Reform Act of 1986, 10 a.m., SD–215.

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* to receive a closed briefing on an update on Iran nuclear negotiations, 9:30 a.m., SVC–217.

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* to hold hearings to examine the reemergence of vaccine-preventable diseases, focusing on exploring the public health successes and challenges, 10 a.m., SD–106.

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

### House

*Committee on Rules*, Full Committee, hearing on S. 1, the "Keystone XL Pipeline Approval Act"; H.R. 636, the "America's Small Business Tax Relief Act of 2015"; H.R. 644, the "Fighting Hunger Incentive Act of 2015"; and the committee's oversight plan for the 114th Congress, 5 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs*, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled "An Examination of Waste and Abuse Associated with VA's Management of Land-Use Agreements", 4 p.m., 334 Cannon.

## CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

### Week of February 10 through February 13, 2015

### Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, Senate will be in a period of morning business until 12:30 p.m.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

## Senate Committees

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

*Committee on Appropriations:* February 11, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of the Interior, 2:30 p.m., SD–192.

*Committee on Armed Services:* February 10, to hold hearings to examine global challenges and the United States national security strategy, 9:30 a.m., SH–216.

February 11, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the situation in Afghanistan, 9:30 a.m., SH–216.

February 11, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to receive a closed briefing on world-wide nuclear capabilities, 2:45 p.m., SVC–217.

February 11, Subcommittee on Personnel, to hold hearings to examine the retirement and compensation proposals of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission, 3 p.m., SD–G50.

February 12, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the situation in Afghanistan; to be immediately followed by a closed hearing in SVC–217, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

February 12, Full Committee, closed business meeting to markup S. 165, to extend and enhance prohibitions and limitations with respect to the transfer or release of individuals detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, 2:30 p.m., SVC–217.

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:* February 10, to hold hearings to examine regulatory relief for community banks and credit unions, 10 a.m., SD–538.

February 12, Full Committee, to resume hearings to examine regulatory relief for community banks and credit unions, 10 a.m., SD–538.

*Committee on the Budget:* February 11, to hold hearings to examine Social Security disability trust fund insolvency, 10 a.m., SD–608.

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* February 10, Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security, to hold hearings to examine keeping goods moving, 10 a.m., SR–253.

February 11, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the Internet, 10 a.m., SR–253.

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* February 12, to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Energy, 10 a.m., SD–366.

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* February 11, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed carbon dioxide emissions rules from new, modified, and existing power plants, 9:30 a.m., SD–406.

*Committee on Finance:* February 10, to hold hearings to examine tax reform, focusing on lessons Congress can learn from the Tax Reform Act of 1986, 10 a.m., SD–215.

February 11, Full Committee, business meeting to markup an original bill relating to access and administration of the U.S. Tax Court; an original bill to remove alcohol bonding requirements for certain taxpayers; an original bill relating to modifications to alternative tax for certain small insurance companies; an original bill to modify the excise tax on cider; an original bill to truncate the collection period for taxpayers hospitalized for combat zone injuries; an original bill to provide special rules concerning charitable contributions to, and public charity status of, agricultural research organizations; an original bill to provide an exception to the private foundation excess business holdings rules for certain philanthropic business holdings; an original bill to clarify a special rules for certain governmental plans; an original bill to modify the treatment of income received under student work-learning-service programs; an original bill for a waste-heat-to-power investment tax credit; an original bill to allow enrolled agents who meet certain requirements to use specified designations; an original bill relating to real estate investment trusts (REITs), regulated investment companies (RICs) and the Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act (FIRPTA); an original bill to exclude from gross income certain compensation received by public safety officers and their dependents; an original bill to convert the tax on liquefied natural gas and liquefied petroleum gas to an energy equivalent basis; an original bill to require the Internal Revenue Service to notify exempt organizations before revoking exempt status for failing to file information returns; an original bill to exclude from gross income certain clean coal power grants; and an original bill to create a military spouse job continuity credit, 10 a.m., SD–215.

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* February 10, to receive a closed briefing on an update on Iran nuclear negotiations, 9:30 a.m., SVC–217.

February 11, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine ending modern day slavery, focusing on the role of United States leadership, 2:15 p.m., SD–419.

February 12, Full Committee, business meeting to markup S. Res. 65, supporting efforts to bring an end to violence perpetrated by Boko Haram, and urging the Government of Nigeria to conduct transparent, peaceful, and credible elections, and an original resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the January 24, 2015, attacks carried out by Russian-backed rebels on the civilian population in Mariupol, Ukraine, and the provision of lethal and non-lethal military assistance to Ukraine, 12 noon, S–116, Capitol.

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* February 10, to hold hearings to examine the reemergence of vaccine-preventable diseases, focusing on exploring the public health successes and challenges, 10 a.m., SD–106.

February 11, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the National Labor Relations Board's (NLRB) new election rule, focusing on employers and employees, 9:30 a.m., SD–430.

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* February 11, to hold hearings to examine the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) 2015 list of high risk government programs, 10 a.m., SD–342.

*Committee on the Judiciary:* February 12, business meeting to consider the nominations of Loretta E. Lynch, of

New York, to be Attorney General, Daniel Henry Marti, of Virginia, to be Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, Executive Office of the President, Michelle K. Lee, of California, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Alfred H. Bennett, George C. Hanks, Jr., and Jose Rolando Olvera, Jr., each to be a United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, Jill N. Parrish, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah, and Nancy B. Firestone, of Virginia, Thomas L. Halkowski, of Pennsylvania, Patricia M. McCarthy, of Maryland, Jeri Kaylene Somers, of Virginia, and Armando Omar Bonilla, of the District of Columbia, each to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims, 10 a.m., SD–226.

*Committee on Rules and Administration:* February 12, business meeting to markup the Omnibus Budget resolution for Senate committees for the period March 1, 2015, through February 28, 2017, and an original resolution to amend Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, 10 a.m., SR–301.

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* February 10, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

February 12, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–216.

## House Committees

*Committee on Agriculture*, February 11, Full Committee, hearing to review the state of the rural economy, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

February 12, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the Budget Views and Estimates Letter of the Committee on Agriculture for the agencies and programs under jurisdiction of the Committee for FY 2016 and other organizational matters, 9:30 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

February 12, Full Committee, hearing to review the 2015 Agenda for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

*Committee on Appropriations*, February 11, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, hearing on the Indian Health Service budget, 9:30 a.m., B–308 Rayburn.

February 11, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, hearing on the Commodity Futures Trading Commission budget, 10 a.m., 2362–A Rayburn.

February 11, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, hearing on Army Corps of Engineers, Civil Works budget, 10:30 a.m., 2362–B Rayburn.

February 11, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, hearing on oversight of funding to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the Ebola virus disease outbreak, 10:30 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

February 12, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, hearing on Bureau of Reclamation budget, 10:30 a.m., 2362–B Rayburn.

February 13, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, hearing on the Department of Agriculture, Office of the Inspector General budget, 10 a.m., 2362–A Rayburn.

*Committee on Armed Services*, February 11, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''The FY16 Budget Request: A View from Outside Experts: 'Alternative Budgets and Strategic Choices' '' 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

February 11, Subcommittee on Military Personnel, hearing entitled ''Final Recommendations from the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission'', 1 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

February 12, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''Update on Detainee Transfers from GTMO'', 3 p.m., 2212 Rayburn. This hearing will close.

February 13, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''What Is the State of Islamic Extremism: Key Trends, Challenges, and Implications for U.S. Policy'', 9 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

*Committee on Education and the Workforce*, February 11, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 5, the ''Student Success Act'', 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

February 12, Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education, hearing entitled ''How Emerging Technology Affects Student Privacy'', 11:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

*Committee on Energy and Commerce*, February 11, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''Federal Efforts on Mental Health: Why Greater HHS Leadership Is Needed'', 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

February 11, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled ''Examining ICD–10 Implementation'', 10:15 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

February 11, Subcommittee on Energy and Power, hearing entitled ''The Fiscal Year 2016 Department of Energy Budget'', 2 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

*Committee on Ethics*, February 12, Full Committee, organizational meeting for the 114th Congress, 10 a.m., 1015 Longworth.

*Committee on Financial Services*, February 11, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''The Future of Housing in America: Oversight of the Federal Housing Administration'', 10 a.m., HVC–210.

*Committee on Foreign Affairs*, February 11, Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade, hearing entitled ''State Sponsor of Terror: The Global Threat of Iran'', 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

February 12, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''The Growing Strategic Threat of ISIS'', 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

February 12, Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats, hearing entitled ''Azerbaijan: U.S. Energy, Security, and Human Rights Interests'', 1 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

February 12, Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa; Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, joint hearing entitled ''The Syrian Humanitarian Crisis: Four Years Later and No End in Sight'', 1:30 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

*Committee on Homeland Security*, February 11, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Countering Violent Islamist Extremism: The Urgent Threat of Foreign Fighters and Homegrown Terror'', 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

February 12, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies, hearing entitled ''Emerging Threats and Technologies to Protect the Homeland'', 2 p.m., 311 Cannon.

*Committee on House Administration*, February 11, Full Committee, hearing on committee funding for the 114th Congress, 11 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

*Committee on the Judiciary*, February 11, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, hearing entitled ''Federal Asset Forfeiture: Uses and Reforms'', 10:30 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

February 11, Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security, hearing on a bill to improve immigration law enforcement within the interior of the United States, and for other purposes; a bill to modify the treatment of unaccompanied alien children who are in Federal custody by reason of their immigration status, and for other purposes; and a bill to amend the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 to provide for the expedited removal of unaccompanied alien children who are not victims of a severe form of trafficking in persons and who do not have a fear of returning to their country of nationality or last habitual residence, and for other purposes, 1 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

February 12, Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law, hearing entitled ''Consumers Shortchanged? Oversight of the Justice Department's Mortgage Lending Settlements'', 10:30 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

February 12, Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet, hearing entitled ''Examining Recent Supreme Court Cases in the Patent Arena'', 1 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

February 13, Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice, hearing entitled ''Oversight of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act and the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act'', 9:30 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

*Committee on Oversight And Government Reform*, February 11, Full Committee, markup on the committee's oversight plan for the 114th Congress; hearing entitled ''GAO's High Risk Report: 25 Years of Problematic Practices'', 1:30 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

February 12, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''U.S. Secret Service: Identifying Steps to Restore the Protective Agency'', 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

February 12, Subcommittee on National Security; and Subcommittee on Health Care, Benefits and Administrative Rules, joint hearing entitled, ''The President's Executive Actions on Immigration and Their Impact on Federal and State Elections'', 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

February 13, Subcommittee on Transportation and Public Assets; Subcommittee on Government Operations, joint hearing entitled ''D.C. Metro: Is There a Safety Gap?'' 9 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

*Committee on Science, Space, and Technology*, February 12, Subcommittee on Environment; and Subcommittee on Oversight, joint hearing entitled ''Bridging the Gap: America's Weather Satellites and Weather Forecasting'', 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

February 12, Subcommittee on Research and Technology; and Subcommittee on Oversight, joint hearing entitled ''Can Americans Trust the Privacy and Security of Their Information on HealthCare.gov?'', 2 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

*Committee on Small Business*, February 12, Full Committee, organizational meeting for the 114th Congress; hearing entitled ''Contracting and the Industrial Base'', 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure*, February 11, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill: Laying the Foundation for U.S. Economic Growth and Job Creation Part I'', 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs*, February 11, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2016'', 10:30 a.m., 334 Cannon.

February 12, Full Committee, markup on pending legislation, 10:30 a.m., 334 Cannon.

February 12, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, hearing entitled ''A Review of the President's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Request for the Department of Labor's Veteran Employment and Training Service'', 2 p.m., 334 Cannon.

*Committee on Ways and Means*, February 11, Subcommittee on Oversight, organizational meeting for the 114th Congress; hearing on the IRS's use of civil asset forfeiture laws to seize the bank accounts of law abiding small businesses, and the settlement tactics employed by the agency, 10 a.m., B–318 Rayburn.

February 11, Subcommittee on Human Resources, organizational meeting for the 114th Congress; hearing on challenges facing low-income individuals and families in today's economy, 2 p.m., B–318 Rayburn.

*Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence*, February 12, Full Committee, business meeting to consider member access requests and views and estimates, 9 a.m., HVC–304. This meeting will be closed.

*Next Meeting of the* SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, February 10

Senate Chamber

**Program for Tuesday:** Senate will be in a period of morning business until 12:30 p.m.

*(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)*

*Next Meeting of the* HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

12 p.m., Tuesday, February 10

House Chamber

**Program for Tuesday:** Consideration of the following measures under suspension of the rules: 1) H.R. 810—National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2015, 2) H.R. 719—TSA Office of Inspection Accountability Act of 2015, 3) H.R. 720—Gerardo Hernandez Airport Security Act of 2015, and 4) H.R. 710—Essential Transportation Worker Identification Credential Assessment Act.

## Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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