

Williamsburg, Iowa; Hans Sauer, Biotechnology Industry Association, Washington, D.C.; Steven E. Anderson, Culver Franchising System, Inc., Prairie du

Sac, Wisconsin; Michael R. Crum, Iowa State University, Ames; and Krish Gupta, EMC Corporation, Hopkington, Massachusetts.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 42 public bills, H.R. 1415–1456; and 6 resolutions, H. Res. 154–159, were introduced. **Pages H1767–70**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H1771**

Reports Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H.R. 1021, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the integrity of the Medicare program, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–46, Part 1). **Page H1767**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Hardy to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H1725**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:41 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Pages H1729–30**

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Reverend Dr. Mark Gooden, Munsey Memorial United Methodist Church, Johnson City, Tennessee. **Page H1730**

Committee Elections: The House agreed to H. Res. 155, electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives. **Page H1730**

Secret Science Reform Act of 2015: The House passed H.R. 1030, to prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from proposing, finalizing, or disseminating regulations or assessments based upon science that is not transparent or reproducible, by a recorded vote of 241 ayes to 175 noes, Roll No. 125. **Pages H1733–48**

Rejected the Takai motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a recorded vote of 181 ayes to 239 noes, Roll No. 124.

Pages H1746–48

Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114–11 shall be considered as read.

Page H1742

Rejected:

Edwards amendment (No. 1 printed in part B of H. Rept. 114–37) that authorizes \$250 million for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2019, by a re-

corded vote of 164 ayes to 254 noes, Roll No. 122; and

Pages H1742–43, H1744–45

Kennedy amendment (No. 2 printed in part B of H. Rept. 114–37) that allows the EPA to use all peer-reviewed scientific publications, by a recorded vote of 184 ayes to 231 noes, Roll No. 123.

Pages H1743–44, H1745–46

H. Res. 138, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 1029) and (H.R. 1030) was agreed to yesterday, March 17th.

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow, March 19. **Page H1748**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Four recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1745, H1745–46, H1747–48, and H1748. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 3:51 p.m.

Committee Meetings

THE IMPORTANCE OF TRADE TO U.S. AGRICULTURE

Committee on Agriculture: Full Committee held a hearing on the importance of trade to U.S. agriculture. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

APPROPRIATIONS—INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES PUBLIC AND OUTSIDE WITNESS DAY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a hearing for public and outside witnesses. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education held an oversight hearing on closing the achievement gap in higher education. Testimony was heard from Aaron Thompson, Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education; and public witnesses.

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies held a hearing on Department of Agriculture Rural Development budget. Testimony was heard from Lisa Mensah, Under Secretary, Rural Development; Lillian Salerno, Administrator, Rural Business—Cooperative Service; Tony Hernandez, Administrator, Rural Housing Service; Jasper Schneider, Acting Administrator, Rural Utilities Service; and Michael Young, Budget Officer, Department of Agriculture.

APPROPRIATIONS—UNITED STATES PACIFIC COMMAND AND UNITED STATES FORCES KOREA

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held a hearing on United States Pacific Command and United States Forces Korea budget. Testimony was heard from Admiral Samuel J. Locklear III, United States Navy, Commander, United States Pacific Command; and General Curtis M. Scaparrotti, Commander, United Nations Command, Commander, Republic of Korea, United States Combined Forces Command, Commander, United States Forces Korea. This hearing was closed.

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development held a hearing on Department of Energy, Environmental Management budget. Testimony was heard from David Klaus, Deputy Under Secretary, Management and Performance, Department of Energy; and Mark Whitney, Acting Assistant Secretary, Environmental Management, Department of Energy.

APPROPRIATIONS—NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies held a hearing on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration budget. Testimony was heard from Kathryn Sullivan, Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

APPROPRIATIONS—INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government held a hearing on Internal Revenue Service budget. Testimony was heard from John A. Koskinen, Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service.

APPROPRIATIONS—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS RELATED AGENCIES

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies held a hearing on related agencies budget. Testimony was heard from Max Cleland, Secretary, American Battle Monuments Commission; Patrick K. Hallinan, Executive Director, Army National Military Cemeteries; Bruce E. Kasold, Chief Judge, United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims; and Steven G. McManus, Chief Operating Officer, Armed Forces Retirement Home.

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs held a hearing on Department of Treasury International Programs budget. Testimony was heard from Jack Lew, Secretary, Department of the Treasury.

THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSED AUTHORIZATION FOR THE USE OF MILITARY FORCE AGAINST ISIL AND THE FISCAL YEAR 2016 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BUDGET REQUEST FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "The President's Proposed Authorization for the Use of Military Force Against ISIL and the Fiscal Year 2016 National Defense Authorization Budget Request from the Department of Defense". Testimony was heard from Ashton B. Carter, Secretary of Defense; and General Martin E. Dempsey, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff.

NAVAL COOPERATIVE STRATEGY

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces; and Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, held a joint hearing entitled "Naval Cooperative Strategy". Testimony was heard from Vice Admiral Charles D. Michel, USCG, Deputy Commandant for Operations; Major General Andrew W. O'Donnell Jr., USMC, Assistant Deputy Commandant, Combat Development and Integration, and Deputy Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command; and Rear Admiral Upper Half Kevin M. "Kid" Donegan, USN, Acting Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Operations, Plans, and Strategy (N3/N5).

SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES IN AN UNCERTAIN THREAT ENVIRONMENT: A REVIEW OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGET REQUEST FOR U.S. SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities held a hearing entitled “Special Operations Forces in an Uncertain Threat Environment: A Review of the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Request for U.S. Special Operations Command”. Testimony was heard from Michael D. Lumpkin, Assistant Secretary of Defense, Special Operations/Low-Intensity Conflict (ASD/SOLIC); and General Joseph L. Votel, Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on the Budget: Full Committee began a markup on the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2016.

REVIEWING THE PRESIDENT’S FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Reviewing the President’s Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Proposal for the Department of Labor”. Testimony was heard from Thomas E. Perez, Secretary, Department of Labor.

DATA SECURITY AND BREACH NOTIFICATION ACT OF 2015

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade held a hearing on a discussion draft of the “Data Security and Breach Notification Act of 2015”. Testimony was heard from Jessica Rich, Director, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission; Cleve Johnson, Chief Counsel for Cybersecurity, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications Commission; Sara Cable, Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General; and public witnesses.

IMPROVING COAL COMBUSTION RESIDUALS REGULATION ACT OF 2015

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy began a hearing on the “Improving Coal Combustion Residuals Regulation Act of 2015”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

PRESERVING CONSUMER CHOICE AND FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Preserving Consumer Choice and

Financial Independence”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

IRAN AND HEZBOLLAH IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere; and Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, held a joint hearing entitled “Iran and Hezbollah in the Western Hemisphere”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

U.S. ELECTION SUPPORT IN AFRICA

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations held a hearing entitled “U.S. Election Support in Africa”. Testimony was heard from Eric G. Postel, Assistant to the Administrator, Bureau for Africa, U.S. Agency for International Development; and public witnesses.

DOES THE PRESIDENT’S FY 2016 BUDGET REQUEST ADDRESS THE CRISES IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA?

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa held a hearing entitled “Does the President’s FY 2016 Budget Request Address the Crises in the Middle East and North Africa?”. Testimony was heard from Anne W. Patterson, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, Department of State; and Paige Alexander, Assistant Administrator, Bureau for the Middle East, U.S. Agency for International Development.

UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEM THREATS: EXPLORING SECURITY IMPLICATIONS AND MITIGATION TECHNOLOGIES

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency held a hearing entitled “Unmanned Aerial System Threats: Exploring Security Implications and Mitigation Technologies”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 1153, the “Asylum Reform and Border Protection Act of 2015”; and H.R. 1148, the “Michael Davis, Jr. in Honor of State and Local Law Enforcement Act”. The following bill was ordered reported, as amended: H.R. 1148. The following bill was ordered reported, without amendment: H.R. 1153.

EFFECT OF THE PRESIDENT'S FY 2016 BUDGET AND LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS FOR THE OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING ON PRIVATE SECTOR JOB CREATION, DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCTION, STATE PROGRAMS AND DEFICIT REDUCTION

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing entitled "Effect of the President's FY 2016 Budget and Legislative Proposals for the Office of Surface Mining on Private Sector Job Creation, Domestic Energy Production, State Programs and Deficit Reduction". Testimony was heard from Joseph Pizarchik, Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior.

FUNDING PRIORITIES FOR AND THE UNITED STATES' RESPONSIBILITIES CONCERNING INDIANS, ALASKA NATIVES, AND INSULAR AREAS IN THE PRESIDENT'S FY 2016 BUDGET REQUEST FOR THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE, OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS, AND OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL TRUSTEE FOR AMERICAN INDIANS

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs held a hearing entitled "Funding Priorities for and the United States' Responsibilities concerning Indians, Alaska Natives, and Insular Areas in the President's FY 2016 Budget Request for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Indian Health Service, Office of Insular Affairs, and Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians". Testimony was heard from the following Department of the Interior officials: Kevin K. Washburn, Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs; Esther Kia'aina, Assistant Secretary, Insular Areas; and Vincent G. Logan, Special Trustee, Office of Special Trustee for American Indians; and Yvette Roubideaux, M.D., Senior Adviser to the Secretary on Native Americans and Alaska Natives, Department of Health and Human Services.

CYBERSECURITY: THE EVOLVING NATURE OF CYBER THREATS FACING THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Information Technology held a hearing entitled "Cybersecurity: The Evolving Nature of Cyber Threats Facing the Private Sector". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

FEDERAL WORKFORCE TAX ACCOUNTABILITY

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Government Operations held a hearing entitled "Federal Workforce Tax Account-

ability". Testimony was heard from Brad Huther, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Housing and Urban Development; E.J. Holland, Jr., Assistant Secretary for Administration, Department of Health and Human Services; Seto Bagdoyan, Director, Audit Services, Forensic Audits and Investigative Service, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

TANGLED IN RED TAPE: NEW CHALLENGES FOR SMALL MANUFACTURERS

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Tangled in Red Tape: New Challenges for Small Manufacturers". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE PRESIDENT'S FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGET: ADMINISTRATION PRIORITIES FOR THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment held a hearing entitled "The President's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget: Administration Priorities for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency". Testimony was heard from Ken Kopocis, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency; and Mathy Stanislaus, Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, Environmental Protection Agency.

BURDENS FAMILY BUSINESSES AND FARMS FACE PLANNING FOR AND PAYING THE ESTATE TAX

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures, held an organizational meeting for the 114th Congress and a hearing on the burdens family businesses and farms face planning for and paying the estate tax. The subcommittee successfully organized. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

ECONOMIC REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Joint Economic Committee: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Economic Report of the President 2015, after receiving testimony from Jason Furman, Chairman, Council of Economic Advisers.

VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Senate Committee concluded a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation from multiple veterans service organizations, after receiving testimony from Lonnie L.

Wangen, North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner, Fargo, on behalf of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs; Colonel Maxwell S. Colon, USA (Ret.), Jewish War Veterans, Encinitas, California; CMSGT (Ret.) Robert L. Frank, Air Force Sergeants Association, Springfield, Virginia; USAF Senior Master Sergeant (Ret.) Larry Hyland, The Retired Enlisted Association, Palm Bay, Florida; Thomas J. Snee, Fleet Reserve Association, Burke, Virginia; Colonel Peter J. Duffy, USA (Ret.), National Guard Association of the United States, Washington, D.C.; Charles Susino, Jr., American Ex-Prisoners of War, Metuchen, New Jersey; Jeanette Early, Gold Star Wives of America, Inc., Aurora, Colorado; and Ryan Kules, Wounded Warrior Project, Severna Park, Maryland.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Commission concluded a hearing to examine Northern Ireland, focusing on Stormont, collusion, and the Finucane inquiry, including other issues of accountability for past government collusion in paramilitary crimes, after receiving testimony from Anne Cadwallader, *Lethal Allies: British Collusion in Ireland*, Armagh, Northern Ireland; and Kieran McEvoy, Queen's University School of Law, and Geraldine Finucane, both of Belfast, Northern Ireland.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2015

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal years 2016 and 2017 for the Veterans Benefits Administration, 10:30 a.m., SD-124.

Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the United States Secret Service, 2 p.m., SD-138.

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine U.S. Strategic Command, U.S. Transportation Command, and U.S. Cyber Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program, 9:30 a.m., SD-G50.

Subcommittee on Airland, to hold hearings to examine Air Force force structure and modernization in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program, 2:30 p.m., SR-222.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the regulatory regime for regional banks, 10 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on the Budget: business meeting to continue to mark up the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2016, 10:30 a.m., SH-216.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, Insurance, and Data Security, to hold hearings to examine the evolving cyber insurance marketplace, 10 a.m., SR-253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine U.S. crude oil export policy, 10 a.m., SD-366.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine the Affordable Care Act at five years, 9:30 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy, to hold hearings to examine the United States-Africa leaders summit seven months later, focusing on progress and setbacks, 9:30 a.m., SD-419.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management, to hold hearings to examine Federal rulemaking challenges and areas of improvement within the existing regulatory process, 10 a.m., SD-342.

Committee on Judiciary: Subcommittee on Oversight, Agency Action, Federal Rights and Federal Courts, to hold hearings to examine reining in amnesty, focusing on *Texas v. United States* and its implications, 3:30 p.m., SD-226.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: to hold hearings to examine patent reform, focusing on protecting innovation and entrepreneurship, 10 a.m., SR-428A.

Select Committee on Intelligence: closed business meeting to consider pending calendar business; to be immediately followed by a closed hearing to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 897, the "Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act of 2015", 9:30 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, hearing on Bureau of Land Management budget, 9:30 a.m., B-308 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, hearing on Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of the Inspector General oversight, 9:30 a.m., H-309 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, hearing on Department of Agriculture Farm and Foreign Agricultural Service budget, 10 a.m., 2362-A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Defense, hearing on United States European Command budget, 10 a.m., H-140 Capitol. This hearing will be closed.

Subcommittee on Homeland Security, hearing on Transportation Security Administration budget, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, hearing on Consumer Product Safety Commission budget, 11 a.m., 2362-B Rayburn.