

BIODEFENSE

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the state of our nation's biodefense, after receiving testimony from former Senator Joseph I. Lieberman, New York, New York, and Thomas J. Ridge, former Secretary of Homeland Security, Washington, D.C., both a Co-Chair, Blue Ribbon Study Panel on Biodefense.

RETIREMENT PLAN OPTIONS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Subcommittee on Primary Health and Retirement Security concluded a hearing to examine retirement plan options for small businesses, after receiving testimony from Scott Anderson, Static Peak, LLC, Jackson, Wyoming, on behalf of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce; Lance Schoening, The Principal Financial Group, Des Moines, Iowa, on behalf of the American

Benefits Council; John J. Kalamarides, Prudential Retirement, Hartford, Connecticut; and David Certner, AARP, Washington, D.C.

VA MENTAL HEALTH

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine Department of Veterans Affairs mental health, focusing on ensuring access to care and action needed to improve access policies and wait-time data, after receiving testimony from Debra A. Draper, Director, Health Care, Government Accountability Office; Harold Kudler, Chief Consultant for Mental Health Services, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; Roscoe G. Butler, The American Legion, and Jacqueline Maffucci, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, both of Washington, D.C.; Nicholas Karnaze, Stubble and 'Stache, Arlington, Virginia; and Dean S. Maiers, Seymour, Connecticut.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 15 public bills, H.R. 3842–3856; and 4 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 88; and H. Res. 500–502 were introduced. **Pages H7331–32**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H7332–33**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 2643, to direct the Attorney General to provide State officials with access to criminal history information with respect to certain financial service providers required to undergo State criminal background checks, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 114–316, Part 1); and

H.R. 2510, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify and make permanent bonus depreciation, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–317, Part 1). **Page H7331**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Palazzo to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H7251**

Recess: The House recessed at 11:05 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H7264**

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Bishop Mar Awa Royel, Assyrian Church of the East, Salida, California. **Page H7264**

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by voice vote. **Pages H7264, H7312**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:58 p.m. and reconvened at 2:53 p.m. **Page H7271**

Trade Act of 2015: The House agreed to the Rogers (KY) motion to concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations, with the amendment printed in part A of H. Rept. 114–315, modified by the amendment printed in part B of H. Rept. 114–315, by a yea-and-nay vote of 266 yeas to 167 nays, Roll No. 579. **Pages H7268–H7312**

H. Res. 495, the rule providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1314) was agreed to by a recorded vote of 392 yeas to 37 noes, Roll No. 578, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 325 yeas to 103 nays, Roll No. 577. **Pages H7271–72**

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow, October 29. **Page H7313**

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

State Licensing Efficiency Act of 2015: H.R. 2643, to direct the Attorney General to provide

State officials with access to criminal history information with respect to certain financial service providers required to undergo State criminal background checks; **Pages H7313–14**

DHS Social Media Improvement Act of 2015: Concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 623, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Department of Homeland Security to establish a social media working group; and

Pages H7314–16

Northern Border Security Review Act: H.R. 455, amended, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a northern border threat analysis.

Pages H7316–19

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency declared with respect to Sudan is to continue in effect beyond November 3, 2015—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 114–71).

Pages H7312–13

Senate Messages: Messages received from the Senate today appears on page H7261.

Senate Referral: S. 754 was held at the desk.

Page H7261

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H7271–72, H7272, H7312. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Committee Meetings

BIG DATA AND AGRICULTURE: INNOVATION AND IMPLICATIONS

Committee on Agriculture: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Big Data and Agriculture: Innovation and Implications”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM—A UNITY OF EFFORT

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Military Personnel held a hearing entitled “Transition Assistance Program—A Unity of Effort”. Testimony was heard from Brigadier General James Iacocca, USA, Adjutant General, U.S. Army; Susan Kelly, Director, Transition to Veterans Program Office, Department of Defense; Horace Larry, Deputy Chief of Staff, Manpower and Personnel, U.S. Air Force; Major General Burke Whitman, Director, Marine and Family Programs, U.S. Marine Corps; Thomas

Yavorski, Executive Director, 21st Century Sailor Office, U.S. Navy; and public witnesses.

ASSESSING DOD’S ASSURED ACCESS TO MICRO-ELECTRONICS IN SUPPORT OF U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY REQUIREMENTS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation held a hearing entitled “Assessing DOD’s Assured Access to Micro-Electronics in Support of U.S. National Security Requirements”. Testimony was heard from Marie Mak, Director, Acquisition and Sourcing Management Team, Government Accountability Office; Kristen Baldwin, Principal Deputy, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Systems Engineering, Department of Defense; André Gudger, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manufacturing and Industrial Base Policy, Department of Defense; and Brett Hamilton, Division Chief Engineer for Trusted Microelectronics, Naval Surface Warfare Center—Crane.

RESTORING THE TRUST FOR AMERICA’S MOST VULNERABLE

Committee on the Budget: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Restoring the Trust for America’s Most Vulnerable”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 3459, the “Protecting Local Business Opportunity Act”. H.R. 3459 was ordered reported, as amended.

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS TO BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE DEPLOYMENT

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a hearing entitled “Breaking Down Barriers to Broadband Infrastructure Deployment”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

UPDATE ON LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE DISPOSAL ISSUES; MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy held a hearing entitled “Update on Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Issues”; and a markup on S. 611, the “Grassroots Rural and Small Community Water Systems Assistance Act”. Testimony was heard from Mark Whitney, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, Department of Energy; Michael Weber, Deputy Executive Director of Operations for Materials, Waste, Research, State, and