

EC-4736. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Evaluation of the Medicare Patient Intravenous Immunoglobulin Demonstration Project: Interim Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4737. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, nine (9) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of State, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 10, 2016; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4738. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2015-0001)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 10, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4739. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2015-0001)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 10, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4740. A communication from the Director, Office of Civil Rights, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's fiscal year 2015 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act) received in the office of the President pro tempore of the Senate; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4741. A communication from the Director of the Office of Financial Reporting and Policy, Office of the Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "FY 2015 Agency Financial Report"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4742. A communication from the Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4743. A communication from the Chief Financial Officer of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to financial integrity for fiscal year 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4744. A communication from the Director, Office of Economic Impact and Diversity, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2015 report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4745. A communication from the Board Members of the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4746. A communication from the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the

report of a rule entitled "Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Paying Benefits" (29 CFR Part 4022) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 10, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4747. A joint communication from the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Thefts, Losses, or Releases of Select Agents and Toxins for Calendar Year 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4748. A communication from the Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the cost of response and recovery efforts for FEMA-3375-EM in the State of Michigan having exceeded the \$5,000,000 limit for a single emergency declaration; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4749. A communication from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report of the Proceedings of the Judicial Conference of the United States" for the September 17, 2015, session and September 9, 2015, session; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4750. A communication from the Chief Counsel, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendments to 47 CFR Part 301 to Implement Certain Provisions of the Spectrum Pipeline Act" (RIN0660-AA31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 10, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4751. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Procurement, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "NASA Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: NASA Capitalization Threshold" (RIN2700-AE23) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 10, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-135. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to enact legislation to repeal the health insurance tax; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 2001

Whereas, sections 9010 and 10905 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111-148) and section 1406 of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-152) impose an unprecedented new tax on health insurance that numerous policy experts agree will be passed on to individuals, working families, small employers and seniors, contradicting a primary goal of health reform by making care more expensive; and

Whereas, the health insurance tax will cause premiums on the individual market to rise an average of \$2,150 for individuals and \$5,080 for families nationally over a ten-year period, will increase premiums in Arizona by an average of \$1,964 over ten years and will increase premiums for families in Arizona over \$3,958 over ten years; and

Whereas, the health insurance tax will impact small employers over the next ten years by reducing future private sector jobs by 125,000, with 59% of these reductions affecting small businesses, and reducing potential sales by at least \$18 billion, with 50% affecting small businesses; and

Whereas, the health insurance tax will increase premiums for small employers in Arizona by an average of \$2,674 per employee over ten years and for large employers by an average of \$2,645 per employee over ten years; and

Whereas, the health insurance tax will impact Medicare Advantage beneficiaries in Arizona by costing an average of \$3,303 more in premiums and reduced benefits over ten years; and

Whereas, the health insurance tax will impact Medicaid beneficiaries in Arizona who are enrolled in a coordinated care program by costing an average of \$1,337 over ten years, putting pressure on already strained state budgets, decreasing benefits and potentially creating coverage disruption; and

Whereas, higher premiums are a disincentive for everyone to obtain insurance coverage, particularly younger, healthier people who are likely to drop their policy if it becomes too expensive, which would further erode the risk pool and make coverage even less affordable.

Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress enact legislation to repeal the health insurance tax, sections 9010 and 10905 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and section 1406 of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, to make health care more affordable for working families, individuals and businesses.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-136. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Michigan memorializing the United States Congress to appropriate funds from the Nuclear Waste Fund for the establishment of a permanent repository for high-level nuclear waste or reimburse electric utility customers who paid into the fund; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 6

Whereas, The nuclear power industry needs a permanent repository for high-level nuclear waste produced by reactors. Nuclear power plays a vital role in meeting our nation's current and future energy needs. However, the failure to construct a permanent repository severely impedes efforts to construct new power plants to provide clean and reliable base load power; and

Whereas, Over the last 30 years, the nuclear power industry and its customers have paid the federal government billions of dollars to construct a permanent repository. Under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, the U.S. Congress established the Nuclear Waste Fund to collect money for the repository. Revenue to the fund came from mandatory fees assessed on all nuclear energy. Since 1983, customers of Michigan electric utilities alone have paid \$812 million into the fund for construction of the repository; and

Whereas, A permanent repository for high-level nuclear waste has not been established and constructed. More than 2,000 metric tons of spent nuclear fuel from power plants continue to accumulate at temporary and potentially vulnerable sites across the nation,

adding to the more than 70,000 metric tons already stored at these sites; and

Whereas, The Nuclear Waste Fund contains a substantial balance for establishment of the repository. While fee collection was suspended on May 16, 2014, the fund still contains a balance of over \$31 billion for the express purpose of supporting radioactive waste disposal activities. It is imperative that Congress meet its obligation to the nuclear power industry and U.S. citizens who paid into this fund: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to appropriate funds from the Nuclear Waste Fund for the establishment of a permanent repository for high-level nuclear waste or reimburse electric utility customers who paid into the fund; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-137. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Michigan urging the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to fulfill their obligation to establish a permanent repository for high-level nuclear waste; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8

Whereas, Over the past four decades, nuclear power has been a significant source for the nation's electricity production. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, nuclear power provided about 20 percent of the electricity produced in the United States in 2013, and Michigan's three nuclear power plants provided 28 percent of the electricity generated in Michigan; and

Whereas, Since the earliest days of nuclear power, the great dilemma associated with this technology is how to deal with used nuclear fuel. Currently, more than 70,000 metric tons of spent nuclear fuel are stored in pools or casks at temporary sites around the country, including Michigan. This high-level radioactive waste demands exceptional care in all facets of its storage and disposal, including transportation; and

Whereas, More than 30 years ago, Congress enacted the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 to address this issue. The act requires the federal government, through the Department of Energy, to build a repository for the permanent storage of high-level radioactive waste from nuclear power plants and begin accepting waste by January 31, 1998; and

Whereas, It is now 2015, and the nation still remains without a permanent repository, despite billions of dollars collected from electric ratepayers for the project. Spent nuclear fuel continues to pile up at temporary sites around the country, and the ongoing problem of permanent disposal is a drag on the potential of the nuclear power industry to meet our nation's energy needs. There is only so long that our nation can continue to safely store this waste at temporary sites; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That we urge the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to fulfill their obligation, as provided by law, to establish a permanent repository for high-level nuclear waste; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of Energy, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Rep-

resentatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. BARRASSO, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 818. A bill to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act to make technical corrections, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-230).

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Res. 368. A resolution supporting efforts by the Government of Colombia to pursue peace and the end of the country's enduring internal armed conflict and recognizing United States support for Colombia at the 15th anniversary of Plan Colombia.

S. Res. 375. A resolution raising awareness of modern slavery.

S. Res. 378. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the courageous work and life of Russian opposition leader Boris Yefimovich Nemtsov and renewing the call for a full and transparent investigation into the tragic murder of Boris Yefimovich Nemtsov in Moscow on February 27, 2015.

S. Res. 383. A resolution recognizing the importance of the United States-Israel economic relationship and encouraging new areas of cooperation.

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble:

S. Res. 388. A resolution supporting the goals of International Women's Day.

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Res. 392. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the prosecution and conviction of former President Mohamed Nasheed without due process and urging the Government of the Maldives to take all necessary steps to redress this injustice, to release all political prisoners, and to ensure due process and freedom from political prosecution for all the people of the Maldives.

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. THUNE for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

*Coast Guard nomination of Rear Adm. Karl L. Schultz, to be Vice Admiral.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

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 Mrs. ERNST (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 2688. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 615 6th Avenue SE in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, as the "Sergeant First Class Terryl L. Pasker Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2689. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to cellular therapies; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. FISCHER, and Ms. HEITKAMP):

S. 2690. A bill to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to modernize the funding of wildlife conservation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE:

S. 2691. A bill to require the Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to establish a pilot program for the adoption and use of certified electronic health records technology; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 2692. A bill to counter foreign disinformation and propaganda, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. ALEXANDER:

S. 2693. A bill to ensure the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission allocates its resources appropriately by prioritizing complaints of discrimination before implementing the proposed revision of the employer information report EEO-1, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Ms. AYOTTE, and Mr. BLUNT):

S. 2694. A bill to ensure America's law enforcement officers have access to lifesaving equipment needed to defend themselves and civilians from attacks by terrorists and violent criminals; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 2695. A bill to permit voluntary economic activity; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 2696. A bill to provide small businesses with a grace period for a regulatory violation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2697. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 and the Portal-to-Portal Act of 1947 to prevent wage theft and assist in the recovery of stolen wages, to authorize the Secretary of Labor to administer grants to prevent wage and hour violations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 2698. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain health arrangements from the excise tax on employer-sponsored health coverage; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. BROWN):