The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, D.C.,

I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL K. SIMPSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Reverend Gary Studniewski, St. Peter’s Catholic Church, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we give You praise and thanksgiving for the United States of America, birthed on the American creed that You have endowed every person with the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We know that true liberty nor happiness is possible without recourse to Your divine will.

Bless the Members of this governing assembly with the wisdom of discerning Your will concerning our national affairs and help them exercise their powers at the service of the rights of each citizen.

Bless this House and the country it serves with Your protection and peace, You who are source of peace, now and forever.

Amen.

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 DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable NANCY PELOSI, Democratic Leader:

WASHINGTON, D.C.,
July 6, 2017.

HON. PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER RYAN: Pursuant to Section 451(a)(3) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017 (Pub. L. 115–31), I am pleased to appoint the following individuals to serve as Commissioners to the Women’s Suffrage Centennial Commission:

Ms. Nicola Miner of San Francisco, California
Ms. Jennifer Siebel Newsom of San Francisco, California

Thank you for your attention to these recommendations.

Sincerely,

NANCY PELOSI,
Democratic Leader.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 2(b) of House Resolution 415, the House stands adjourned until noon tomorrow for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business. Thereupon (at 10 o’clock and 2 minutes a.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, July 11, 2017, 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:

1965. A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agriculture Marketing Service, Livestock, Poultry, and Seed Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Beef Promotion and Research; Reapportionment [Doc. No.: AMS-LPS-16-0071] received June 28, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.


1967. A letter from the Deputy Director, Office of Financial Management, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Medicaid CHIP Program; Medicaid CHIP and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP); Changes to the Medicaid Eligibility Quality Control and Payment Error Rate Measurement Programs in Response to the Affordable Care Act [CMS-6068-P] (RIN: 0938-AS74) received June 30, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1968. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Titanium Dioxide; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2016-0282; FRL-9961-62] received June 30, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1969. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Pyroxsulam; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2016-0686; FRL-9962-60] received June 30, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1970. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Pyroxsulam; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2016-0686; FRL-9962-60] received June 30, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.
H.R. 3169. A bill to improve the hiring, training, and efficiency of acquisition personnel and organizations of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Appropriations, 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. CHABOT (for himself and Mr. EVANS):

H.R. 3170. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to require cyber certification for small business development center counselors, 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. CHABOT (for himself and Mr. EVANS):

H.R. 3171. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide that certain orthotist’s and prosthetist’s clinical notes under Medicare be treated as part of the patient’s medical record; 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. BRADY of Texas (for himself and Mr. MURDOCH):

H.R. 3172. A bill to amend the Medicare IVIG Access and Strengthening Medicare and Repaying Taxpayers Act of 2012 to extend the IVIG Access Demonstration Project; 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. MARCHANT (for himself, Mr. KIND, and Mr. MERHAN):

H.R. 3173. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to create alternative sanctions for technical noncompliance with the Stark rule under Medicare, 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. MOULTON (for himself, Ms. BEILEN, Mr. KILMER, and Mrs. MURPHY):

H.R. 3174. A bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to enter into contracts with industry intermediaries for purposes of promoting the development of and access to apprenticeships in the technology sector, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

80. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Utah, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution 8, encouraging the Federal Government to work with states to plan and implement state-tailored, innovative programs that maximize states’ flexibility and choice; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

81. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Utah, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution 11, urging the President of the United States to direct the United States Department of State’s Directorate of Defense Trade Controls to cease labeling gumsmuts as manufacturers; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

82. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Utah, relative to House Joint Resolution 4, requesting that Utah’s congressional delegation submit federal legislation and amendments block grant and maintain or-effort requirements; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

83. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Utah, relative to House Concurrent Resolution 7, expressing support for Utah ranchers grazing livestock on Utah’s public lands; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

84. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Utah, relative to Senate Joint Resolution 11, urging that sufficient funding be budgeted to complete the Bonneville Unit of the Central Utah Project, as well as the entire Central Utah Project; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

85. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Utah, relative to Senate Joint Resolution 5, supporting the intended proposed Unites States House Bill to increase oil royalties to the Utah Navajo Trust Fund; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

86. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Utah, relative to House Concurrent Resolution 4, allowing for the re-empowerment of the States Amendment; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

87. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Utah, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution 6, affirming the resolve of the state Legislature and the Governor to protect the civil liberties, religious freedoms, and dignity of all Americans, legal immigrants, and refugees seeking protection against persecution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

88. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Utah, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution 2, urging Congress to authorize states to regulate air ambulance billing and collections of patient care costs; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

89. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Utah, relative to Senate Joint Resolution 13, urging the United States Congress to authorize the creation of for profit corporations by the several states; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

90. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Utah, relative to Senate Joint Resolution 3, urging Congress to enact legislation permitting commercial drivers who are 18 to 21 years old to operate a commercial motor vehicle in a contiguous state; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

91. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Maine, relative to House Petition 1128, urging the United States Congress to reduce tariffs on lobster and seafood products to keep Maine and domestic lobster and seafood products competitive with Canadian lobster and seafood products; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

92. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Maine, relative to House Joint Resolution 17, urging the President of the United States and Congress to recognize state authority and take action to restore power to the states; jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary, Rules, the Budget, and Oversight and Government Reform.

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. POLIQUIN:

H.R. 3169. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. CHABOT:

H.R. 3170. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution

H.R. 3171. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. BRADY of Texas:

H.R. 3172. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. MARCHANT:

H.R. 3173. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. MOULTON:

H.R. 3174. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 449: Mr. NORCROSS and Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 506: Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 592: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. DONO- 

VAN, and Ms. SINAHA.

H.R. 585: Mr. PAYNR, Mr. RUSH, Mr. WALZ, 

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. POLIS, and Mr. 

DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 916: Mr. DONOVAN.

H.R. 1002: Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 1094: Mr. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 1532: Mrs. LOVE.

H.R. 1575: Mr. NORCROSS.

H.R. 1606: Mr. STIVER.

H.R. 1673: Miss Rice of New York, Ms. 

SLAUGHTER, and Ms. MENG.

H.R. 1992: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 1698: Mr. PITTENGER, Ms. BONAMICI, 

and Mr. RICE of South Carolina.

H.R. 1802: Mr. VALADAO.

H.R. 1841: Mr. LOWENSTEIN.

H.R. 1847: Mr. HOYER.

H.R. 1884: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Ms. ROSEN.

H.R. 1904: Mr. TONKO and Mr. RUPPERS- 

BERGER.

H.R. 2059: Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 2290: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 2319: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. GAL- 

LAGAINE, Mr. GUTHEIER, Mr. SHEARMAN, Mr. TUP- 

TON, Mr. COMER, Mr. BRAT, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of 

Georgia, Ms. NAPOLITANO, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Ms. 

DELAURO, Mr. MISSEER, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mrs. DONGHILL, and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 2774: Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. KILMEY, Ms. 

KELLY of Illinois, and Mr. EVANS.

H.R. 2785: Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 2956: Mr. GASTZ.

H.R. 3027: Mr. HECK.
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:
Let us pray.
Almighty God, all power and authority belong to You. You even rule the raging of the sea.
Guide our lawmakers as they strive to serve Your purposes for their lives in this generation. May they acknowledge You as the source of their strength, finding their security in the wisdom and love of Your unfolding providence. Make our Senators a shining example of trustworthy and responsible stewardship. Use them to strengthen the moral fiber of our Nation and world. Lord, give them a renewed sense of reverence and wonder that You have chosen them to serve You and country.
We pray in Your gracious 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 MAJORITY LEADER
The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Young). The majority leader is recognized.

HEALTHCARE LEGISLATION
Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, ObamaCare has been hurting toward collapse for years. Today it sits on the edge of a total meltdown. Unless we do something about that, even more Americans are going to get hurt.

These are the men and women we represent—Americans who didn’t do anything wrong and Americans who, in too many cases, have been hurt by ObamaCare already—and we have a responsibility to help before ObamaCare literally comes crashing down around them.

I think each of us understands this. Yet, too often, this central fact seems to get lost amidst the din of cable news sound bites and over-the-top attacks. Too many seem to have forgotten the pain ObamaCare has brought to so many families over the years. Too many seem to have forgotten that even more will be hurt if the ObamaCare status quo is allowed to continue.

I recently shared a letter from a constituent in Lancaster who told me about her struggle to make ends meet under ObamaCare. Here is what she said: “I live in one of the three largest cities in our state, and I had two options for insurance this year. The lowest deductible option,” she continued, “was $10,000.”

I recently shared a Louisville mother’s pleas for Congress to bring relief from ObamaCare’s limited options. Here is what she said: “Middle class Kentuckians are hurting because of ObamaCare,” she said. “Residents [have] little choice for health plans and our family is not the only one suffering from the high costs of health insurance.”

“I hope,” she concluded, that “you will push hard to fix our healthcare system.”

This year, families in 70 percent of counties had just one or two insurance options on ObamaCare. As a survey out just yesterday showed, the number of uninsured grew in 2017, with nearly 2 million people dropping ObamaCare coverage. Now we are hearing even more negative projections for next year.

In fact, it is expected that in 2018, thousands could be left without any ObamaCare options at all in States like Nevada and Missouri and Ohio, while thousands more are left with just one choice, which is really no choice at all.

A new CMS report released just a few minutes ago found that nearly 40 percent fewer insurers have filed to participate in the ObamaCare exchanges next year. This reduction in choice is a trend we have been seeing under ObamaCare, and it seems only to keep getting worse.

Higher prices, fewer options, diminished hope, that is the legacy of
required to cover very many services. That policy might have a premium of $1,000 but a deductible of $10,000. You would be paying less monthly, but you would have to put down a huge amount of money for your policy to even kick in. In that way, a Cruz insurance policy is worse than no policy at all because the vast majority would pay a monthly premium and never hit their deductible, so they would be getting no health insurance benefit at all. You would pay the premium, but the deductible is so high, it kicks in later. What good is that? In effect, for many, it is a policy that would have a premium but no insurance.

In addition, Americans with pre-existing conditions will almost certainly be left without access to affordable and quality healthcare, making the Senate bill even meaner than the House bill on this issue. Even the Republican Senator from Iowa, Senator Grassley, said that about the Cruz amendment. Here is what he said: "There's a real feeling that [it's] subterfuge to get around pre-existing conditions... If it has the effect of annihilating the pre-existing condition requirement that we have in the existing bill, then obviously I would object to that.

Those are the words of Senator Grassley. Members of both parties agree that the most significant potential change to the Republican TrumpCare bill is an amendment that would make the legislation even worse. So make no mistake about it—the Cruz amendment is a cruel, mean hoax.

Let's not forget that even without the Cruz amendment, the substance of the base Senate Republican bill is devasting. The CBO reports it would cause costs to go up, care to go down, and force 22 million Americans off their health insurance. It would end Medicaid as we know it.

This weekend, I had the good experience once again to go to the Utica Boilermaker, a famous 15K road race in my dad's hometown, the largest in the country. People from 45 States participated.

As usual, I walked through the crowd afterwards, congratulating people on a great race. They were sweaty, but they were happy. I came upon three men in wheelchairs. Here they are. Just after they crossed the finish line, the first thing they said to me was this: "Senator, please protect Medicaid; we'd be lost without it."

These were proud men, and they deserved to be proud for finishing a difficult race made harder by their disability. They could be forgiven for taking a moment to celebrate. Instead, they wheeled up to me to talk about how important Medicaid was to them. When will my Republican friends resolve the terrible bill? The Senate—we all know this—was intended as a forge for bipartisan consensus—a cooling saucer, as the Founding Fathers said. In the Senate, bipartisanship should be the first option, not the last resort.

I repeat: We Democrats are willing to work. We are ready to work with our Republican colleagues on healthcare. Today Democratic leadership sent a letter to my friend the majority leader asking for bipartisan legislation to stabilize the marketplaces and improve the quality and lower the cost of care.

The majority leader said over the break that he may be forced to work with Democrats to stabilize marketplaces. Democrats say: Let's do it. Let's do it now.

We sent the majority leader four specific proposals, led by Senator Stabenow's amendment to guarantee cost-sharing reduction payments—the most important thing we can do to stabilize the marketplace and even lower premiums for many right now. Whatever your views on healthcare, we should agree that we need to stabilize the marketplaces. I look forward to a response from the majority leader to our letter.

When will my Republican friends realize that their partisan approach to healthcare is a dead end, that the only way to truly improve our Nation's healthcare system is to finally heed Democrats' requests to come together and work in a bipartisan way? I hope our Republican colleagues realize this sooner, not later.
Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, there was the G–20 and President Trump’s bilateral meeting with President Putin. While a few good things came out of this summit, overall, it was an embarrassing embarrassment to our country and our ideals. Clearly, the moment of all was President Trump’s meeting with Vladimir Putin, on several counts.

As our intelligence community has concluded, the President of Russia is deliberately interfering in our elections and sought to undermine our democracy. That is not Democrats making it up. That is 17 intelligence agencies—men and women, many of whom risk their lives for us every day, people we look up to, people we admire. They are the ones who said there was interference—not Democrats, not politicians. I wish President Trump would stop saying it was Democrats who came up with this idea. It was our own intelligence community. Rather than declaratively exposing the Russian president on these actions—the Russian interference—the President reportedly acquiesced to Putin’s denial.

To give equal credence to the findings of 17 U.S. intelligence agencies and an assertion by Mr. Putin is disgraceful. They are not equal. Our 17 intelligence agencies are far more important to us and far more credible to us than Vladimir Putin. Every American—every American—no matter their party—should take seriously the warning of the President of the United States, the俄罗斯美国—our own hardworking, dedicated intelligence community with Mr. Putin, who has shown contempt for our democracy and has spent his professional and political career trying to undermine it.

This almost certainly paves the way—the President’s actions almost certainly pave the way—for future Russian interference on our elections. If Russia is able to get away with it, it will only embolden them to do it again. We do not want that. We do not want to see Russia meddle with our democracy, with our elections.

President Trump went so far as to float the absolutely absurd possibility that the White House is actively working to water down or stall a bill of sanctions against Russia related to its interference in our elections—without even a vote. This is a dereliction of duty.

The truth is that the Trump administration is more focused on frustrations about its own requests for nominees to be confirmed and for information to be released to the American public than on what is happening in our country. It has been slower in sending nominees to the Senate than any other administration in history. It has already indicated that it will not release information about its investigation of Russian interference in our elections.

We must hold this administration accountable for its actions. The Gang of Eight in the Senate,古城八年—Mr. McCain, Mr. Graham, Mr. Flake, Mr. Cotton, Mr. Menendez, Mr. Durbin, Mr. Warner, and Mr. Risch—have spoken out in favor of punishing the sanctioning bill. The bill has the support of the American people and has been supported by the American intelligence community.

Mr. Trump, if you are not going to punish Russia for meddling, why not turn around and say that you are going to support the legislation to punish Russia for meddling? If you are not going to support the bill to punish Russia for meddling, why not support the bipartisan legislation that would be right for the American people?

Mr. President, I want to give equal credence to the findings of the 17 U.S. intelligence agencies and an assertion by Mr. Putin. It is not equal. Our 17 U.S. intelligence agencies are far more important to us and far more credible to us than Vladimir Putin. Every American—every American—no matter their party—should take seriously the warning of the President of the United States, the Russian intelligence community with Mr. Putin, who has shown contempt for our democracy and has spent his professional and political career trying to undermine it.

This almost certainly paves the way—the President’s actions almost certainly pave the way—for future Russian interference on our elections. If Russia is able to get away with it, it will only embolden them to do it again. We do not want that. We do not want to see Russia meddle with our democracy, with our elections. The American people are wondering: How can the President of the United States fail to stick up for our democracy? How can the President fail to seriously challenge the man responsible for violating the sanctity of our elections?

Candidly, I am dismayed that the Republican leadership in this body and in the other has been so quiet in the wake of these actions. The Republican Party’s foreign policy for decades was predicated on opposition to the Soviet Union and now Russia. It was the linchpin of their foreign policy. Now, when a President of their party is soft on Russia—even after Russia blatantly interfered in our elections—we hardly hear a peep from the Republican leadership.

I certainly acknowledge, respect, and admire the words of my friends, Republican Senators McCain, Graham, Sasse, and Rubio, who have spoken out and should be recognized and applauded for it. They have been the exception, not the rule. We need to hear more from the Republican leadership because this situation is getting ever more troubling.

RUSSIA INVESTIGATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, finally, on the revelation that President Trump’s son, his son-in-law, and his campaign manager met with a lawyer with ties to the Kremlin with the pretext of discussing information that would be damaging to Secretary Clinton’s campaign.

This revelation should be the end of the investigation. The Trump campaign to coordinate or collude, it is certainly not proof positive that they were not in the meeting—but these reports in the press at least demand further investigation.

It defies credulity that the President’s campaign manager, his son, and his son-in-law, at the height of a very, very heated campaign—three people very close to the President and at the helm of that campaign—were all going to a meeting with a Russian lawyer to discuss potentially damaging information about Hillary Clinton.

The Senate Intelligence Committee has already indicated that it will look into the possibility of coordination or collusion as part of their broader investigation. This meeting and the background behind it should be included in future document requests and additional lines of inquiry.

After providing documents to the Intelligence Committee, Donald Trump, Jr., must also testify before the committee to explain why three of the highest level members of the Trump administration thought it was appropriate to meet with a Russian source to receive information about a political opponent. We are talking about the wellspring and pride of our democracy—free and fair elections without foreign interference.

When the President of the United States is unwilling to forcibly defend our democracy, a violation of our sovereignty, face to face with its chief adversary, we need to continue to learn of additional meetings between his campaign and Russian sources, when we hear that the White House is actively working to water down or stall a bill of tough Russia sanctions, we in Congress need to step up and defend the vital interests of our country. Both parties should be united in that effort because, at least for now, the President seems unwilling to do so.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, finally, on nominations, which were just mentioned in a noncamera briefing at the White House, I understand the White House is complaining about the pace of nominations, citing the obstruction of Senate Democrats. If the White House is looking for a cause of the delay, they only need to look in the mirror.

A number of the administration in recent memory has been slower in sending nominees to the Senate. In the last few weeks, the administration has sent several nominees without all of their paperwork or their ethics agreements complete. We cannot go forward until that happens.

The White House has sent nominees for the Cabinet on down without the paperwork or ethics agreements completed. That is almost unprecedented in its degree. Time and again, they have stalled on providing committees with documentation they need to proceed on nominations.

After campaigning on “draining the swamp,” the Trump administration has
sent the Senate a slew of nominees with a myriad of conflicts of interest and ethics entanglements. It is our duty in the Senate to vet these nominees properly because the American people are entitled to ethical government, and the White House should not unilaterally delay on obstruction in the Senate.

It is typical of the Trump administration to do something wrong and blame someone else for their problem. Mr. President, I yield the floor for my good friend and colleague from the great State of Florida.

HEALTHCARE LEGISLATION

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, before the Senate, our leader, yields the floor, will he yield for a quick question?

Mr. SCHUMER. I would be happy to yield to my friend from Florida.

Mr. NELSON. The Senator then asked about the comments that have been made during the July 4th recess—comments about the healthcare bill—to various Senators.

Would the Senator believe that this Senator had innumerable people come up to him all over Florida, whatever venue that I was in—and I was in public venues quite a bit—and say: Please don’t let them take away my healthcare? Would the Senator believe that?

Mr. SCHUMER. In answer to my friend, I absolutely would because I have experienced the same thing. I was in my State in many areas that are Republican. And I ended up in an airport in South Dakota, and it was so called Republican Senator where the Senator and I ended up in an airport. And Senator Tom Carper, lo and behold, this Senator observed innumerable constituents of that Republican Senator in the airport coming up and saying: Please don’t take my healthcare away. Would the Senator believe that?

Mr. SCHUMER. The Senator has been there, Mr. President, he knows that that is true.

HEALTHCARE LEGISLATION

Mr. NELSON. The President himself said that if you liked your doctor, you can keep your doctor. Well, that proved to be false. Mr. President, I yield the floor for my colleague from the great State of Florida.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Rao nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Neomi Rao, of the District of Columbia, to be Administrative of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. Ernst). Without objection, it is so ordered.

HEALTHCARE LEGISLATION

Mr. CORKY. Madam President, I know we are all glad to be back in Washington, DC, at work after a few days back home, and I know many of us are eager to continue our work to rescue the American people from the failures of the Affordable Care Act, otherwise known as ObamaCare.

The failures of ObamaCare are well documented, and while they don’t necessarily apply to everyone, particular individuals and small businesses in the so-called individual market have seen a meltdown of the insurance exchanges. The President himself noted that there has been a failure experiment in here in Iowa, in the State of Iowa, I know, has had insurance companies pulling out to the point where people can’t even find an insurance carrier who will sell a policy that qualifies under the Affordable Care Act.

The failures of ObamaCare was, unfortunately, a partisan exercise and a Big Government experiment that has failed.

All you have to do is look at the promises that were made at the time that ObamaCare was being sold back in 2009 and 2010. The President himself said that if you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor. Well, that proved to be not true. He said that if you liked your policy, you can keep your policy. Well, that proved not to be true as well because people saw their policies cancceled because they couldn’t qualify under the new requirements of the Affordable Care Act.

Perhaps the thing that stung the most was the fact that the President said back in 2009 and 2010 that an average family of four would see a reduction in their health insurance premiums by an average of $2,500. Well, what we have seen since 2013 is a 105 percent increase in insurance premiums under the Affordable Care Act, and so instead of seeing a cut in their out-of-pocket costs of $2,500, what people have experienced—families of four—is an insurance premium increase of $3,000. Now, some people may be able to absorb that cost, but most people I know cannot. What it has meant is, they have had to re prioritize their spending so they have less to spend on other things in their life.

We do know, based on the promises made at the time the Affordable Care Act was being sold to the American people, that it has been a failed experiment. So the question is, What are we going to do about it? What are we going to tell the folks in Iowa who can’t find an insurance policy or an insurance company who is willing to sell them an insurance policy on the individual market? What are we going to tell people in Texas who have seen their premiums go up by 105 percent since 2013 and have been priced out of the market? What are we going to do about it? What are we doing to do about it?

A number of my colleagues have noted that even if Hillary Clinton were elected President of the United States, we would still have to be revisiting the failures of the Affordable Care Act because the failures are all too obvious and public and can’t be denied, but despite that, and despite any of ObamaCare’s failings, many of our friends across the aisle—in fact, all of them so far in the Senate—have made clear they want nothing to do with providing any help or any aid to the people who are being hurt by the failures of ObamaCare. They don’t want to lift a finger to help the people who can’t find insurance, who can’t afford it, and the policies they are forced to buy will limit them in a way that they simply have decided to opt out.

So instead of working together with you—you would think they would do...
that. It would just be a logical thing to do because their constituents are the ones who are being hurt, in many instances. Instead, they have fought us tooth and toenail to preserve the broken status quo in healthcare that has failed across the country, where people are trying to help people who are hurting, rather than lending a helping hand and working together with us in a bipartisan way.

Let me talk just a minute about Medicaid because this is one of the big attacks that is being made by our Democratic colleagues on our efforts to try to salvage healthcare for people who are hurt by the failures of the Affordable Care Act. Much of the conversation has revolved around Medicaid and rightly so.

In my home State, 4.7 million folks currently rely on Medicaid. It is an important safety net program for people who are in low-income status—so for poorer folks. For those Americans, I want to make sure they understand, notwithstanding all the scare tactics, Medicaid is not going away.

Now, one of the common refrains is that Medicaid spending is slashed in the Better Care Act, but the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that Medicaid spending will grow by $74 billion over 10 years. So when they have talked about it being cut, it actually grows by $71 billion over 10 years.

I would also point out there are some who think the current rate of spending on Medicaid can go forward unabated without any changes, and that is simply not true. We know that according to the Congressional Research Service, Medicaid spending across the country totaled $494 billion in 2014. I guess that was the last year for which full statistics were available—$494 billion. If we do nothing to check the rate of growth of Medicaid spending, in 2025 it will go from $585 billion to $835 billion. We simply cannot keep up with that pace of spending.

Many of us—the Presiding Officer being one of them—are concerned about cuts in our military, which is the one thing the Federal Government has to do because nobody else can do it. Right now, we have seen, during the last administration, cuts of about 20 percent in our defense spending.

Well, when you have runaway spending in entitlement programs like Medicaid, where nobody is placed on a budget and forced to spend wisely and efficiently, essentially by forcing the Federal Government to spend $835 billion for Medicaid spending alone, that is going to crowd out a lot of other meritorious and important spending, including for defense spending as well. So we need to make sure Medicaid is there when the leadership puts on a responsible budget that grows year after year. In fact, during the life of this particular bill, over the next 10 years, it will go up $71 billion.

Here is another thing. Our friends across the aisle act like Medicaid is the very best program to come down the pike. Well, it is not, and there are a number of reasons for that. One is that Medicaid recipients don’t always get the quality of care or the access to care we would hope for. That is because the States, which set the rate of reimbursement of doctors for Medicare beneficiaries, set it so low that it is roughly half the amount that is reimbursed based on private insurance. That is the reason why, in 2000, 67 percent of physicians refused to treat new Medicaid patients. Today, it is 31 percent. So if you are on Medicaid, there is a two-thirds chance you will not be able to find a doctor to see you as a Medicaid beneficiary.

What we are trying to do, instead, in the Better Care Act—particularly for the single adult population between 100 percent and 135 percent of the Federal poverty level—is, we said we will give you a refundable tax credit you can use for private insurance. Private insurance is highly preferable to Medicaid because, for one thing, it reimburses physicians at a higher rate and gives people greater access to physicians, hospitals, and greater quality of care. In my State alone, in the State of Texas, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation, as many as 600,000 new low-income Texans will benefit from the provisions of the Better Care Act. It will help qualify them for a tax credit not available to them under ObamaCare.

Simply throwing money at Medicaid will not help people at all. We need to reform Medicaid and make it more efficient. Frankly, one of the things I did when I first got to Congress would go on Medicaid. Well, it failed, but the point I was trying to make is that if we were on Medicaid, we would fix Medicaid. Right now, it is substandard healthcare for the reasons I mentioned. Two-thirds of the doctors in my State alone refuse to see a new Medicaid patient because it pays them so far under the standard of private insurance or even Medicare.

By providing low-income Americans access to private insurance instead of Medicaid, we can assist those who were previously left out of the healthcare system and will now be able to purchase a plan of their choice perhaps for the first time. Unless we act, we are going to continue to see skyrocketing premiums and deductibles and lost coverage.

The American people were told time and time again that under ObamaCare costs would go down and they would be able to keep their doctor, which has proven not to be the case.

I mentioned before on the floor of the Senate that in my previous life as attorney general of Texas, we had something called the Consumer Protection Division, and if some business made false claims about the service or product to the American people when it came to their healthcare, the U.S. Government would take them to court and we would win because it is simply a deceptive trade practice in that context. It is deception. It is deceit. Unfortunately, the American people were bamboozled by promises that were not kept.

We also know that about $1 trillion in ObamaCare taxes—new taxes that were imposed to pay for ObamaCare—had been passed by the previous Congress. We know that about $1 trillion in ObamaCare taxes—new taxes that were imposed to pay for ObamaCare—had been passed by the previous Congress. We also know that about $1 trillion in ObamaCare taxes—new taxes that were imposed to pay for ObamaCare—had been passed by the previous Congress. We also know that about $1 trillion in ObamaCare taxes—new taxes that were imposed to pay for ObamaCare—had been passed by the previous Congress. We also know that about $1 trillion in ObamaCare taxes—new taxes that were imposed to pay for ObamaCare—had been passed by the previous Congress. We also know that about $1 trillion in ObamaCare taxes—new taxes that were imposed to pay for ObamaCare—had been passed by the previous Congress. We also know that about $1 trillion in ObamaCare taxes—new taxes that were imposed to pay for ObamaCare—had been passed by the previous Congress. We also know that about $1 trillion in ObamaCare taxes—new taxes that were imposed to pay for ObamaCare—had been passed by the previous Congress.
them to buy insurance that they don’t want and can’t afford. This way, families can choose what works best for them, free from the penalties by the government. Some individuals may choose to go with no plan at all.

The truth is that the Affordable Care Act is that it can’t work without a government mandate that you buy government-approved health insurance or else you pay a penalty. I can’t think of any other instance where the government says “You do what we say, or we are going to punish you and penalize you,” as the Affordable Care Act does.

Even with the individual mandate and this threat of a penalty, we know that about 28 million Americans are currently not covered by insurance. Many of them are covered by so-called hardship exceptions. About 6.5 million of them just pay the penalty because it is cheaper to pay the penalty than it is to buy the insurance because the prices are so high.

When some of the critics say that without this economic gun to the head of a penalty, people will choose not to buy insurance for themselves, that is a choice they will make as Americans. We know of plenty of examples when the marketplace provides a product that they believe adds value at a price they can afford, that is when consumers buy a product or a service. But they shouldn’t have to do it because the government forces them to do it and penalizes them if they don’t. The Better Care Act gives people the ability, free from a government mandate, to choose not to buy something they don’t want.

The nonpartisan budget office has estimated that under our plan, average premiums will decrease by nearly one-third in 3 years.

These are some of the important facts we need to be debating, not the misrepresentations that unfortunately seem to fill the void.

I have shared multiple stories from my constituents back home in the last few weeks on the floor, and I plan to keep doing that as we continue our work on this legislation. The stories that I and my colleagues have heard are what have inspired me and motivated me from the beginning of this entire process. In fact, it is our job to represent our constituents. I would encourage all of our colleagues to listen to their own States and to share the trials of their constituents as well because the status quo is simply unacceptable. The Democratic leader has said as much. He said that if we set aside the Better Care Act and are actually interested in helping “fix” ObamaCare, they are willing to do that. But do you know what that is? Basically, what that represents is a huge, multimillion-dollar bailout of insurance companies without any other reform. That is what our Democratic colleagues are supporting by their failure to ensure with us in making sure there are reforms in addition to the other things that we do.

The other alternative plan—you might ask: Well, if Obamacare didn’t work as was advertised—which it clearly hasn’t—and something needs to be done, what does that something look like?

In the case of our friend the Senator from Vermont, Mr. BERNIE SANDERS, he said: I have an idea. Let’s just make the Federal Government provide insurance coverage for everybody, single-payer.

Well, that is simply a solution we can’t afford when we look at the trade-offs. It would essentially supplant all the private insurance that people get from their employers and require incredible increases in taxes in order to do that across the board. So I don’t think that is an alternative our friends across the aisle want to support. They love the mandate, they love penalizing free American citizens when they don’t pursue the government-mandated, but they are not going to defend that. They are not going to defend that. They certainly won’t advocate, at least openly here on the floor, for a single-payer system.

We say that. The Senate Committee of the legislature in California recently vote out a single-payer system. This was just one committee, I think, in one house. The estimated cost of a single-payer system in California alone was double the annual budget of the entire State. You can imagine what the numbers would be here at the national level.

Like any piece of legislation, our draft bill can be strengthened, and we would invite anyone in good faith who is interested in strengthening the bill to work with us to do so. We are going to continue to talk and listen and exchange ideas on how we can continue to make improvements, but in the end, the choice is clear: You either ultimately support ObamaCare and the status quo, or you are willing to try to work with us to produce something better that provides more affordable healthcare from the doctor and healthcare provider of your choice. That is simply the choice people are going to have. A “no” vote against the alternative is simply a vote for the status quo for ObamaCare, and we know where that is going to lead—it is going to lead with a big, multibillion-dollar bailout of insurance companies without reform. And our Democratic colleagues are hoping for if we are unsuccessful. But we think there is a better way to approach this, one that brings down cost and maintains choices and the freedom of choice for the individual consumer.

We will continue to plow ahead with or without their help because we think it is our duty to do so, and we have confidence that, working together, we can come up with a better care plan that suits the needs of Americans when it comes to their healthcare.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.
rulemaking process, and there are far too few opportunities for meaningful public participation, but Republicans don’t want to fix this problem—no way. They want to make the rulemaking process work even better for their corporate buddies and work even harder against working families.

And, boy, did they pick the right person to lead the charge. President Trump nominated Neomi Rao—a law school professor who advocates for weakening and handcuffing agencies—to run the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs known as OIRA.

OIRA is a small, little-known but intensely powerful office that renews economically significant Federal rules. Before the Department of Labor can issue a rule on workplace safety, for example, or the Environmental Protection Agency can issue a rule restricting water pollution or the Department of Education can issue a rule protecting students from shady, for-profit colleges—a rule must be submitted to OIRA to sign off. If OIRA doesn’t like the rule, it can change the rule or hold it up for months at a time. When a rule finally makes it out of the OIRA ringers, chances are that any changes will be slanted in favor of corporate interests.

Professor Rao’s view of agencies makes her the wrong person to lead this powerful agency. She believes judges should pay less attention to the conclusions of experts at Federal agencies, and Professor Rao is especially critical of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau—the CFPB. This is the agency that has forced the biggest corporations and banks in this country to return more than $12 billion directly to consumers from shady, for-profit colleges. And the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming. Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that with respect to the Rao nomination, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of David C. Nye, of Idaho, to be United States District Judge for the District of Idaho.


The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Rao nomination?

Mr. STRANGE. Mr. President, I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Ms. MURKOWSKI) would have voted “yea” and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) would have voted “yea.”

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. Udall) is necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 157 Ex.]

YEAS—97

Alexander
Barrasso
Brown
Burr
Capito
Carper
Cassidy
Cochran
Collins
Cotulla
Crapo
Cruz
Daines
Donnelly
Reno

NAY—5

Baldwin
Booker
Brown
Cantwell
Cardin
Casey
Coons
Cortez Masto
Duckworth
Durbin

Merkley
Murray
Nelson
Peters
Reed
Sanders
Schatz
Shaheen
Stabenow

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 97, nays 5, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 157 Ex.]

YEAS—97

Alexander
Barrasso
Brown
Burr
Casey
Cochran
Collins
Coons
Bennet
Carter
Capito
Cotulla
Cotton
Crapo

Theyeasandnaysresulted—yeas97,nays5,asfollows:
DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

HON. BOB CORKER,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the re-
porting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the
Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are
forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 17–34,
concerning the Navy’s proposed Letter-
s of Offer and Acceptance to the Govern-
ment of Australia for defense articles and
services estimated to cost $101.4 million.
After this letter is delivered to your office,
we plan to issue a news release to notify the
public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

J.W. RIXEY,
Vice Admiral, USN, Director.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 17–34
Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of
Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the
Arms Export Control Act, as amended
(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of
Australia
(ii) Total Estimated Value: Major Defense Equipment* $100.0 million. Other $1.4 million.
Total $101.4 million.
(iii) Description and Quantity or Quan-
tities of Articles or Services under Consider-
ation for Purchase:
Major Defense Equipment (MDE): Thirty-two (32) Multifunctional Information
Distribution System—Joint Tactical Radio System (MIDS JTRS) with four channel
Concurrent Multi-Network (CMN–4). Thirty-nine (39) AN/ALQ–214A(V)4 Counter-
measure Systems.

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of
Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the
Arms Export Control Act
Annex Item No. vii

(1) Multifunctional Information Distribu-
tion System (MIDS) Joint Tactical Radio
System (JTRS) Concurrent Multi-Network
(CMN–4) is a secure data and voice com-
munication network using the Link–16 archi-
tecture. The system provides enhanced sit-
tuation awareness, positive identification of
participants with the network, secure fight-
er-to-fighter connectivity, and secure voice
communications. It provides capabilities:

Air Control,
Wide Area Surveillance,
and Fighter-to-Fighter. The MIDS JTRS CMN–4 can be used to transfer data in Air-to-Air,
Air-to-Surface and Fighter-to-Fighter sce-
narios.

(2) The AN/ALQ–214A(V)4 is an advanced
airborne Integrated Defensive Electronic
Countermeasures (IDECM) programmable
automated system capable of intercept-
ing, identifying, processing received radar
signals (pulsed and continuous) and ap-
plying an optimum probability of survival
from a variety of surface-to-air and air-to-
air RF threats. The system operates in a
stealth mode or Electronic Attack/Counter-
countermeasure mode. The EW suite mode
system operates various dispensable countermeasures and the onboard radar in the F/A–18E/F in a
countermeasure, non-interfering, real-time,
sharing information for enhanced information.

The AN/ALQ–214A(V)4 was designed to operate in a
high-density Electromagnetic Hostile Envi-
ronment with the ability to identify and
counter a wide variety of multiple threats
including those with Doppler characteristics.

The proposed sale of AN/ALQ–214A(V)4 is
classified CONFIDENTIAL.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary
were to obtain knowledge of the specific
hardware and software elements of the
information could be used to develop counter-
measure or equivalent system which might

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of David C. Nyce,
who was nominated by the President, to be United States District Judge for the Distric-
ted of Idaho.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The ma-

LEGISLATIVE SESSION
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.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION
Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, section
36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act
requires that Congress receive prior no-
tification of certain proposed arms sales
as defined by that statute. Upon such
notification, the Congress has 30
calendar days during which the sale
may be reviewed. The provision stipu-
lates that, in the Senate, the notifica-
tion of proposed sales shall be sent to
the chairman of the Senate Foreign
Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee’s in-
tention to see that relevant informa-
tion is available to the full Senate, I
ask unanimous consent to have printed
in the RECORD the notifications which
have been received. If the cover letter
references a classified annex, then such
annex is available to all Senators in the
office of the Foreign Relations
Committee, room SD–423.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this
vote, the yeas are 97, and the nays are
0.

The motion is agreed to.

The senior assistant legislative clerk
read the notification of David C. Nyce,
who was nominated by the President, to
be United States District Judge for the
District of Idaho.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The ma-

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, section
36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act
requires that Congress receive prior no-
tification of certain proposed arms sales
as defined by that statute. Upon such
notification, the Congress has 30
calendar days during which the sale
may be reviewed. The provision stipu-
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Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee’s in-
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tion is available to the full Senate, I
ask unanimous consent to have printed
in the RECORD the notifications which
have been received. If the cover letter
references a classified annex, then such
annex is available to all Senators in the
office of the Foreign Relations
Committee, room SD–423.

There being no objection, the ma-
terial was ordered to be printed in the
RECORD, as follows:
reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that Austria can provide a substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology as being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to Australia.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Dear Mr. Chairman:
Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 17–40, concerning the Army’s proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of the Netherlands for defense articles and services estimated to cost $3.9 billion. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

GREG KAUSNER
(Fow J.W. Rixey, Vice Admiral, USN, Director).

TRANSMITTAL NO. 17–40
Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: The Government of the Netherlands.
(ii) Estimated Value: Major Defense Equipment* $38.2 million. Other $28.2 million. Total $38.2 million.
(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

- Foreign Military Sales (FMS) case NE–B–WGC
- Non-MDE: Thirty-three (33) AN/AVR–2B laser detector sets, and communications, logistics and support equipment.
- The Netherlands has requested the possible sale of thirty-two (32) AN/MSQ–132 engagement control stations.

(iv) Major Defense Equipment (MDE): Thirty-two (32) AN/AVR–2B laser detector sets, and communications, logistics and support equipment. The Netherlands will have no difficulty absorbing these systems into its armed forces.

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to Be Sold: See Attached Annex.


*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Government of the Netherlands—AN/AAR–57A(V)7 Common Missile Warning System (CMWS)

The Government of the Netherlands has requested the possible sale of thirty-two (32) AN/AAR–57A(V)7 Common Missile Warning Systems (CMWS). This would be in addition to the thirty-three (33) AN/AVR–2B laser detector sets with various support elements included in an earlier FMS case valued at $8.2M. Also included in the amended FMS case would be weapon, hardware and services required to implement customer unique post modifications, communication and navigation equipment, special tools and test equipment, installation equipment, mission support equipment, technical data, publications, MWO/ECP, technical assistance, and training, and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total case value is $38.2 million.

This proposed sale will enhance the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the security of the Netherlands which has been, and continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe. It is vital to the U.S. national interest to assist the Netherlands to develop and maintain a strong and ready self-defense capability.

The proposed sale will strengthen the Netherlands’ capability to meet current and future threats and will be employed on the Netherlands’ AH–64D Apache helicopters. The Netherlands will use the enhanced capability to strengthen its homeland defense, deter regional threats, and provide direct support to coalition partners and allied forces. The Netherlands will have no difficulty absorbing these systems into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of these systems will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be BAE Systems, Nashua, NH. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the expenditure of additional U.S. Government personnel or contractor representatives to the Netherlands.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.
thirteen (13) antenna mast groups, twenty-eight (28) M903 launching stations, fifty-six (56) Patriot MIM–104E Guidance Enhanced Missile–TBM (GEM–T) missiles, one hundred and sixty-eight (168) Patriot Advanced Capability–3 (PAC–3) Missile Segment Enhancement (MSE) missiles, and seven (7) Electrical Power Plants (EPP) III. Also included with this modernization are dedicated equipment, tools and test equipment, support equipment, prime movers, generators, publications and technical documentation, training equipment, spare and repair parts, technical training, TAFT team, U.S. Government and contractor technical, engineering, and logistics support services, Systems Integration and Checkout (SICO), field offices, and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated program cost is $3.9 billion.

This proposed sale will enhance the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the security of a NATO ally that has been, and continues to be an important force for political, military, and economic progress within Europe. The proposed sale of the Patriot system will support Romania’s needs for its own self-defense and economic development, which may have important implications for U.S. national security and foreign policy interests.

Romania will use the Patriot missile system to strengthen its homeland defense and deter aggression. The proposed sale will increase the defensive capabilities of the Romanian military to guard against aggression and shield the NATO allies who often train and operate within Romania’s borders. Romania should have no difficulty absorbing this system into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of these missiles and equipment will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractors will be Raytheon Corporation in Andover, Massachusetts, and Lockheed Martin in Dallas, Texas. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require approximately 30 U.S. Government and 40 contractor representatives to travel to Romania for an extended period for equipment de-processing, fielding, system check-out, training, and technical and logistics support.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

**TRANSMITTAL NO. 17–35**

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

**vii Sensitivity of Technology:**

1. The Patriot Air Defense System contains classified CONFIDENTIAL hardware components. SECRET tactical software and CRITICAL/SENSITIVE technology. Patriot ground support equipment and Patriot missile hardware is classified CONFIDENTIAL and the Raytheon hardware is classified CLASSIFIED. Information on system performance capabilities, effectiveness, survivability, missile seeker capabilities, select software implementation, documentation and test data are classified up to and including SECRET. The items requested represent significant technological advances for Romania Patrroit. The Patriot Air Defense System continues to hold a significant technology lead over other surface-to-air missile systems in the world.

2. The Patriot Air Defense System’s sensitive/critical technology is primarily in the area of design and production know-how and primarily inherent in the design, development, engineering, and test capability. Data is related to certain components. The list of components is classified CONFIDENTIAL. For more information contact the PEO Missiles and Space Lower Tier Project Office.

3. The loss of this hardware, software, documentation and/or data could permit development and production of copies detrimental to a significant threat to future U.S. military operations. If an adversary were to obtain this sensitive technology, the missile system efficacy could be compromised through reverse engineering techniques.

4. This proposed sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification. Moreover, the benefits to be derived from this sale, as outlined in the Policy Justification, outweigh the potential damage that could result if the sensitive technology were revealed to unauthorized persons.

5. All defense articles and services listed in the Letter of Offer for Romania have been authorized for release and export to Romania.

**DEFENSE SECURITY**

**COOPERATION AGENCY,** Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB Corker, Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR Mr. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 17–31, containing the Department’s proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Australia for defense articles and defense services to cost $50 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

**GREG KAUSNER**

(For J.W. Rixey, Vice Admiral, USN, Director).

**TRANSMITTAL NO. 17–31**

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

**Anex I Item No. vii**

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

**TOTAL $50 million.**

**Total $1.035 billion.**

**Non-MDE: Also included with this request are baseline integration kits, basic issue item kits, B-kit armor, engine arctic kits, Joint Light Tactical Vehicles (JLTV). Also included are U.S. Government technical services, technical data, and other related elements of logistical and program support. The total estimated program cost is $50 million.**

This sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a major contributor to political stability, security, and economic development in the Western Pacific. Australia is a major non-NATO Ally and partner that contributes significantly to peacekeeping and humanitarian operations around the world. It is vital to the U.S. national interest to assist our ally in developing and maintaining a strong and ready self-defense capability.

The proposed sale of 120mm tank ammunition will improve Australia’s capability to meet out-year operational readiness and training requirements. Australia will use this ammunition to help sustain necessary training levels for its tank operators. Australia will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

Implementation of this proposed sale and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

This requirement will be provided from U.S. Army inventory. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. or contractor representatives to Australia.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

**DEFENSE SECURITY**

**COOPERATION AGENCY,** Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB Corker, Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR Mr. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 17–23, containing the Department’s proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of the United Kingdom for defense articles and defense services to cost $1.035 billion. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

**J.W. Rixey,**

Vice Admiral, USN, Director.
NOTICE OF PROPOSED ISSUANCE OF LETTER OF
EXPORT CONTROL ACT.

Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

U.S. government technical assistance and logistics support services, and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army.
(iv) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.
(vi) Sales Commission. Fee, etc., Paid: Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.
(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Arms Export Control Act.

* As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

United Kingdom—Joint Light Tactical Vehicles (JLTV) and Accessories

The Government of the United Kingdom (UK) has requested a possible sale of up to two thousand seven hundred forty-seven (2,747) Joint Light Tactical Vehicles (JLTV).

This possible sale also includes baseline integration kits, basic issue item kits, B-kit armor, engine arctic kits, fording kits, run-flat kits, spare tire kits, silent watch kits, power expansion kits cargo cover kits, maintainer and operator training, U.S. government technical assistance and logistics support services, and other related elements of logistics and program support.

Total estimated cost is $1,035 billion.

This proposed sale supports the foreign policy and national security policies of the United States in order to improve the security of a NATO ally which has been, and continues to be, an important partner on critical foreign policy and defense issues.

The proposed sale will help improve the UK’s Light Tactical Vehicle Fleet and enhance its ability to meet current and future threats. The UK will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor of this sale will be Oshkosh Defense, LLC, Oshkosh, Wisconsin. The procured items will require minimum contractor support until the foreign customer can eventually transition to internal organic support. There is no known offset agreement associated with this proposed sale.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 17–23

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. This sale will involve the release of sensitive technology to the Government of the United Kingdom. The Joint Light Tactical Vehicle platform is classified as SECRET.

This Joint Light Tactical Vehicle fleet will incorporate ballistic armor kits for protection from improvised explosive devices.

2. Sensitive and/or classified (up to SECRET) elements of the proposed Joint Light Tactical Vehicle include hardware and accessories, component, and associated software: baseline integration kits, basic issue items, ballistic-kit armor, engine arctic kits, fording kits, run-flat kits, silent watch energy systems, power expansion kits and cargo covering kits.

3. A determination has been made that the United Kingdom can provide substantially the same degree of protection for this technology as the U.S. Government. This proposed sale is necessary in furtherance of U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives.

4. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for re-lease and export to the Government of the UK.

TRIBUTE TO DR. BENJAMIN TUGGLE

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to Dr. Benjamin Tuggle who served as the regional director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s southwest region. A skilled communicator and accomplished biologist, Dr. Tuggle dedicated more than 38 years of service to advancing the mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Joint Light Tactical Vehicle fleet will be produced in the United Kingdom. The Joint Light Tactical Vehicle platform is classified as SECRET.

The United Kingdom—Joint Light Tactical Vehicle is a key economic asset for Lower Colorado River communities. We may not have always agreed on agency policies, but Dr. Tuggle maintained an open dialogue and willingness to engage directly with local communities.

The challenges faced by the service and Region 2 are daunting. Our unique southwest landscape and wildlife are under constant threat from oppressive drought and catastrophic wildfire. Dr. Tuggle was faced with tough decisions to make, but he always labored to strike the right balance between competing interests on complex issues. I thank him for his service.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

225TH ANNIVERSARY OF PATerson, NEW JERSEY

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the city of Paterson’s 225th anniversary. Through the dedicated service of municipal employees, elected leaders, local volunteers, community members, and most importantly, the incredible residents who have supported and loved the city through many generations, the city of Paterson has grown and prospered, earning its reputation as an outstanding community in my home state.

The town of Paterson was officially established in 1792 through a charter signed by then-Governor of New Jersey, William Paterson. Paterson was one of the nation’s first planned industrial cities, a brainchild of one of our Founding Fathers, Alexander Hamilton, and the Society for Establishing Useful Manufacturers.

Because of Paterson’s proximity to what was then called the Great Falls of the Passaic River, the city was at the forefront of the development of water power systems for industrial use. In fact, the energy harnessed from the Great Falls was crucial in the effort to establish industrial freedom from Britain. Today the Paterson Great Falls, a scenic area straddling the Passaic River, continues to be just as important to the city as it was when Paterson was first founded.

As a regional industrial epicenter, Paterson became the birthplace of many “invention firsts,” including the first steam and electric-powered model trains. After milling steel for the Union effort in the American Civil War, Paterson refocused to become the center of our Nation’s silk industry, thus earning its nickname the “Silk City.” The city also played a vital role during our Nation’s Second World War, serving as a hub for the aircraft engine manufacturing industry.

In addition, the Great Falls National Historical Park served as the primary inspiration for William Carlos Williams’ five-volume epic poem, Paterson. In 1950, Williams received the first National Book Award for Poetry for Paterson. Book III. Our beloved Silk City has woven its way into the works of many other renowned American writers including Junot Diaz, John Updike, Jack Kerouac, and Allen Ginsberg.

In addition to literature, Paterson natives have served as esteemed representatives in these hallowed halls. I would be remiss if I recognized the city of Paterson without mentioning the contributions of two of its favorite sons Congressman BILL PASCRELL, Jr., and the late Senator Frank Lautenberg, who have served New Jersey and our country with honor and distinction.

From Downtown Paterson’s commercial historic district, to our national historical park, to Larry Doby Field, the architectural, natural, and cultural landmarks are abundant across this great city. Paterson is among our most diverse communities, attracting residents from dozens of different cultures who have greatly enriched the abundant tapestry of diversity and pluralism in the city of Paterson and across the entire State of New Jersey. I am delighted to have the opportunity to stand before you today to celebrate the profound history and legacy of New Jersey’s third-largest city. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating the city of Paterson on this important milestone, sending our warmest greetings as it celebrates its incredible history and extending our best wishes as it looks toward the future.

27TH ANNIVERSARY OF BMW GROUP PLANT SPARTANBURG

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, today I wish to celebrate the 27th anniversary of the BMW Group Plant Spartanburg in Spartanburg, SC.

Twenty-five years ago, BMW decided to make an investment in South Carolina. Today I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the risk and vision it took to begin this venture. The Spartanburg workforce has a world-renowned reputation and is second to none. Without the hard work of the workforce, we wouldn’t have anything to associate, so it is with great pride that I extend my sincerest gratitude for all of their efforts.
In addition to the contributions BMW has made to South Carolina, we are also celebrating the strong relationship between Germany and the Palmetto State. Globalization and trade are crucial to South Carolina’s economic success and play a huge role in maintaining this positive relationship with the United States and Germany. I am proud to be an owner of a made-in-South Carolina BMW X5 because it represents all that makes our country great.

BMW has been a gift that keeps on giving for South Carolina, and South Carolina has been a wise investment for BMW. Thank you to all the hard-working men and women of South Carolina who have made this day a possibility. It is because of their dedication and diligence that South Carolina continues to be a prime destination for companies looking to invest and grow.

**RECOGNIZING THE BILLINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY**

- Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the Billings Public Library for promoting a center of reading and learning for folks in Montana.

The Billings Public Library was established in 1901 and was named for Parmly Billings, the only member of the founding Billings family to reside in the city.

More than 100 years later, the 200,000-volume library has grown and expanded, entrenching itself deeply in the fabric of the Billings community. It has grown from one location to two and now has two mobile components to increase the number of people with access to the library’s resources.

The Billings Public Library as an institution has also been tirelessly dedicated to Montana historical preservation through its “Montana Collection,” which has collected historical information on Montana since 1895.

Beyond providing families in Billings with access to information through books and computers, the Billings Public Library has provided residents with the opportunity to make their voice heard and participate in countless townhall meetings and listening sessions, including many on topics ranging from the future of our public lands to the quality of care at the VA.

The library will celebrate its 116th anniversary in August 2017, making it one of Montana’s oldest and most cherished learning spaces. The Billings Public Library has had a profound impact on the city of Billings and is a true example of fine service to the Montana people.

**250TH ANNIVERSARY OF SISSETON, SOUTH DAKOTA**

- Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Sisseton, SD. The town of Sisseton will be celebrating its quasquicentennial on June 14 through 16, 2017. Sisseton will host quasquicentennial events, which include food and craft vendors, various exhibits, entertainment, parades, athletic competitions, a veterans museum display, Native American flute music, a rodeo, and much more.

Sisseton is located on the northern edge of the rolling Red Cloud Prairie in Roberts County. The Sisseton area has long been known as a community enriched with Native American and immigrant history. It is home to more than 2,450 people and almost 200 businesses with many unique cultural and recreational opportunities. Since its founding 125 years ago, the community of Sisseton continues to serve as a strong example of South Dakota values and traditions.

I offer my congratulations to the citizens of Sisseton on their quasquicentennial celebration and wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.

**TRIBUTE TO REVEREND RICHARD LEE BUCKINGHAM**

- Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to an exceptional faith leader in my own neighborhood in Kensington, MD. After 32 years of service to St. Paul’s United Methodist Church in Kensington, the Reverend Richard Lee Buckingham will retire at the end of July and it is an occasion that deserves recognition and celebration.

My volunteer family worships at St. Paul’s, and my children have been the beneficiaries of Rick Buckingham’s wise counsel and leadership. He has long directed programs at St. Paul’s for the benefit of young people, and he is recognized throughout many faith communities as a leader in Christian education and the spiritual nourishment of teens and young adults.

Reverend Buckingham has served in ministry to the local church for 32 years and arrived at St. Paul’s United Methodist Church in 1985. He has worked with nine different senior pastors, offering counsel and wisdom to each in his role as minister of education and youth.

Reverend Buckingham has instructed over 350 young people during confirmation classes and watched proudly as they took their vows of faith. He has led eight different trips to witness the realities of faith and conflict in the Holy Land; he has been a leader to eight different international gatherings of United Methodist Youth leaders; he organized 20 different youth mission trips to Appalachia, Puerto Rico, and places beyond; he has leveraged his own interest in church history to take students to places where they will learn about their faith and will conclude that work with a trip to Germany later this year to celebrate the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther’s launch of the Protestant Reformation.

Rick Buckingham has always been on the go; always introducing young people to a wider world, mindful of the observation of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, that “the world is our parish.” He visits recent graduates of St. Paul’s UMC at their colleges, conducts their weddings—34 to date—and takes them to annual rock-faith events in Ocean City, although I suspect he uses an additional earplug.

The reverend is also recognized for his leadership as a deacon of the United Methodist Church, a designation with specific responsibilities, and he has given to his wider denomination as much as he has given to his own local congregation.

Rick Buckingham teaches us all how to be a “humble servant” in accordance with our faith and at a time when we need examples of what true community service, faith, and civility looks like in this public square. It is a personal honor for me to recognize this leader in my own church and a leader in the wider community beyond.

**MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE**

At 3:02 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 bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3003. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to modify provisions relating to assistance by States, and political subdivision of States, in the enforcement of Federal immigration laws, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3004. An act to amend section 276 of the Immigration and Nationality Act relating to reentry of removed aliens.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 67. Concurrent resolution urged the Government of the People’s Republic of China to unconditionally release Liu Xiaobo, together with his wife Liu Xia, to allow them to freely meet with friends, family, and counsel and seek medical treatment wherever they desire.

**MEASURES REFERRED**

The following concurrent resolution was read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 67. Concurrent resolution urging the Government of the People’s Republic of China to unconditionally release Liu Xiaobo, together with his wife Liu Xia, to allow them to freely meet with friends, family, and counsel and seek medical treatment wherever they desire; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

The following reports of committees were submitted:

- By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:
- S. 125. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require multi-line telephone systems to have a default configuration that permits users to directly initiate a call to 9-1-1 without dialing any additional digit, code, prefix, or post-fix, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115–124).
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. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):
S. 1785. A bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to enter into contracts with industry intermediaries for purposes of promoting the development of and access to apprenticeships in the technology sector, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-125).

By Mr. ISAKSON, from the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, an amendment in the nature of a substitute:
S. 1024. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to reform the rights and processes regarding claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-126).

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 251, a bill to repeal the Independent Payment Advisory Board in order to ensure that it cannot be used to undermine the Medicare entitlement for beneficiaries.

S. 266
At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of S. 266, a bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Anwar Sadat in recognition of his heroic achievements and courageous contributions to peace in the Middle East.

S. 322
At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 322, a bill to protect victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence from emotional and psychological trauma caused by acts of violence or threats of violence against their pets.

S. 334
At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 334, a bill to clarify that a State has the sole authority to regulate hydraulic fracturing on Federal land within the boundaries of the State.

S. 378
At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 378, a bill to amend titles 5 and 28, United States Code, to require the maintenance of databases on awards of fees and other expenses to prevailing parties in certain administrative proceedings and court cases to which the United States is a party, and for other purposes.

S. 540
At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHAFITZ) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) were added as cosponsors of S. 540, a bill to amend title 42, United States Code, to tax certain income of employees for employment duties performed in other States.

S. 622
At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 622, a bill to preserve open competition and Federal Government neutrality towards the labor relations of Federal Government contractors on Federal and federally funded construction projects.

S. 654
At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKET) were added as cosponsors of S. 654, a bill to revise section 48 of title 18, United States Code, for other purposes.

S. 706
At the request of Mr. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 683, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the requirement to provide nursing home care to certain veterans with service-connected disabilities.

S. 772
At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 765, a bill to amend the National Child Protection Act of 1993 to establish a national criminal history background check system and criminal history review program for certain individuals who, related to their employment, have access to children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 819
At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. STRANGE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 545, a bill to preserve and protect the free choice of individual employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, or to refrain from such activities.

S. 872
At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 872, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make permanent the extension of the Medicare-dependent hospital (MDH) program and the increased payments under the Medicare low-volume hospital program.
At the request of Ms. HETTcamp, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. Gillibrand) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1112, a bill to support States in their work to save and sustain the health of mothers during pregnancy, childbirth, and in the postpartum period, to eliminate disparities in maternal health outcomes for pregnancy-related and pregnancy-associated deaths, to identify solutions to improve health care quality and health outcomes for mothers, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Hatch, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. Boozman) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1124, a bill to grant the Director of the United States Marshals Service authority to appoint criminal investigators in the excepted service.

At the request of Mrs. Shandee, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. Duckworth) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1146, a bill to enhance the ability of the National Ombudsman to assist small businesses in meeting regulatory requirements and develop outreach initiatives to promote awareness of the services the Office of the National Ombudsman provides, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. Baldwin, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Warner) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1186, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to designate certain entities as centers of excellence for domestic maritime workforce training and education, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Markey, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. Klobuchar) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1256, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 23rd Headquarters, Special Troops and the 313td Signal Service Company in recognition of their unique and distinguished service as a “Ghost Army” that conducted deception operations in Europe during World War II.

At the request of Mr. Corinny, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. Durbin) and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. McCaskill) were added as cosponsors of S. 1301, a bill to provide assistance in abolishing human trafficking in the United States.

At the request of Mr. Grassley, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. McCaskill) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. Kennedy) were added as cosponsors of S. 1312, a bill to prioritize the fight against human trafficking in the United States.

At the request of Mr. Tester, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. Nelson) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1325, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the authorities of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to hire, recruit, and train employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Thune, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. Portman) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1343, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to extend and modify certain charitable tax provisions.

At the request of Mr. Thune, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. Klobuchar) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1426, a bill to amend the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act to expand the purposes of the corporation, to designate the United States Center for Safe Sport, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mrs. Ernst, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. Fischer) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1427, a bill to provide States with the option of applying for and receiving waivers for the States to experiment with new approaches that integrate Federal programs in order to provide more coordinated and holistic solutions to families in need, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Crapo, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. Heller) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1463, a bill to amend the Financial Stability Act of 2010 to modify the term of the independent member of the Financial Stability Oversight Council.

At the request of Mr. Cassidy, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. Capito) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1465, a bill to terminate the prohibitions on the exportation and importation of natural gas, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Hirono, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. Hirono) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 211, a resolution condemning the violence and persecution in Chechnya.

At the request of Mr. Toomey, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Ms. Scuffle) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 213, a resolution honoring the memory of Dallas Police Department Senior Corporal Lorne Ahrens, Sergeant Michael Smith, Officer Michael Krol, Officer Patrick Zamarripa, and Dallas Area Rapid Transit Police Officer Brent Thompson, who were killed during the attack in Dallas, Texas, that occurred a year ago, on July 7, 2016.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. Nelson:

S. 1521. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to reduce the interest rate caps for Federal Direct student loans, to eliminate loan origination fees on all Federal Direct student loans, and to provide for refinancing of Federal Direct student loans and Federal family education loans; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. Nelson. Mr. President, I want to talk about a heavy financial burden that too many of our fellow Americans are being forced to deal with. What I am talking about is student loans. You may be surprised to know that the second largest amount of debt in America, next to home mortgage debt, is student loan debt. Student loan debt is $1.3 trillion more than all the credit card debt combined in America. Graduates from the class of 2016 have more than $37,000 in student loan debt, on average, when they graduate.

To make matters worse, the Federal Government last week announced that
it was increasing interest rates on Federal student loans for this coming school year, which starts in September. For undergraduate students, rates are increased from last year at 3.76 percent to 4.45 percent, almost three-quarters of a percent higher. And for a student who starts on July 1.

Well, our economy is built on the ingenuity and creativity of young entrepreneurs who have taken a risk on something new, but today, instead of sending money off to be erudite and conquer the world, we are sending them off with a tremendous amount of debt that they are struggling to afford.

While I was in Florida last week over the July 4th recess, I met with a group of recent graduates, and we wanted to discuss their student loans. They were not shy about telling me about it. Many of them had high interest rates. They wondered how they were going to pay off that debt, how they were going to be able to afford the financial burden so they could get on about the business of building their career and starting a family.

Let me give you some examples of the story I met with. One young lady graduated from the University of Central Florida in 2015 with $50,000 in student loan debt. The interest rate on her debt was 4.85 percent. She knows that her parents, who have helped her before—she is a married housewife—those are not going to be able to continue to help her financially. Even so, she was the first person in her family to graduate from college. That student is currently attending George Washington University for graduate school, after which she is estimating her total debt will be $90,000 in student loans. She told me about what every student longs to do: Purchase a home, start a family, and get on with their career. But that is an unattainable dream from that financial burden today, which could get on about the business of building their career and starting a family.

I met another student from Deltona, FL, who works as a social worker for a non-profit organization. She graduated with a bachelor’s degree in social work and a master’s degree in the same from Florida State. She has dedicated her life to public service and helping the most vulnerable among us, yet she is facing $75,000 in student loan debt while carrying interest rates that range from 5.4 percent to 6.8 percent.

In Florida alone, students graduating with a 4-year degree are leaving with an average of more than $25,000 in student debt. That graduated with a bachelor’s degree in social work and a master’s degree in the same from Florida State. She has dedicated her life to public service and helping the most vulnerable among us, yet she is facing $75,000 in student loan debt while carrying interest rates that range from 5.4 percent to 6.8 percent.

That is why today I am introducing legislation to lower the cap on student loan interest and the so-called lender origination fees and to allow those with existing loans to refinance at a lower rate; namely, 4 percent.

Remember that one student I met who had loans that went anywhere from 5.5 up to 6.8 percent? That was the interest rate in that particular year of their education. I think they ought to be able to refinance all of that at a lower rate.

The bill that I am filing today, which we are calling the Student Loan Relief Act, would cap student loan interest rates for undergraduates at 4 percent, graduates at 5 percent, and parents at a cap of 6 percent. It would also help students borrow less by ending the loan origination fees the government charges students to process their loan. For example, if it is a $10,000 loan, they will take out a loan origination fee of $100, so the actual loan the student gets is $9,900. Those fees are taken out before the student receives the loan. The bill we are filing would eliminate those fees altogether.

One other thing the bill would allow for any borrower with an existing Federal student loan to refinance their loans one time to a lower rate. Once the Federal Government sets the student loan interest rates for the year, they are fixed now under current law for the lifetime of that loan and they can’t be refinanced even if the rates go lower. That is certainly not in the interest of the student. For example, borrowers who took out loans between July of 2006 and July of 2013 likely have a fixed rate of 6.8 percent. Despite the significant drop in interest rates since 2013, currently those borrowers are barred from refinancing their existing loans. That is not a common sense. Between 2006 and 2013, the interest rate on student loan debt got as high as 6.8 percent. Students who took out loans during that time are now stuck with those rates. They can’t refinance that debt as you could with a home loan. This bill would fix that by letting those borrowers refinance their debt with the new loans that have the lower interest rates.

Capping interest rates, ending loan origination fees, and allowing borrowers to refinance existing loans would certainly help make education more affordable for our students. It is an economic orthodoxy that is weighing down our economy and keeping some graduates from making the types of investments that traditionally lead to stronger middle-class membership like, for example, home ownership.

Sometimes, in all of the partisan back-and-forth, some folks begin to forget why we are here: to serve the people. I urge our colleagues to take a serious look at this bill and join with me in helping those we represent.

We can’t continue to leave our graduates saddled with so much student debt and no way out. We have to do something to ease the burden, and I believe this is a good way to start.

I would just conclude by recalling what I said at the outset: You may be surprised to learn that student loan debt is the second largest debt carried in America next to home mortgage debt.

You can take all the credit card debt in America and combine it all and it is not as much as the $1.3 trillion of student loan debt that is carried today. We need to help those students, and thereby we are helping our country.

NOTICE: REGISTRATION OF MASS MAILINGS

The filing date for the 2017 second quarter Mass Mailing report is Tuesday, July 25, 2017.

An electronic option is available on the Senate website that will allow forms to be submitted electronically or delivered to the Senate Office of Public Records. 232 Hart Building, Washington, DC 20510–7116.

The Senate Office of Public Records is open from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. For further information, please contact the Senate Office of Public Records at (202) 224–3022.

APPOINTMENT

The CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE SENATE: The Senate adjourns until 2:15 p.m., Tuesday, July 11, 2017.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 2:15 p.m., Tuesday, July 11, further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Nye nomination; finally, that all time during morning business, recess, adjournment, and leader remarks count post cloture on the Nye nomination.

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

ORDER FOR BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, 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 MERKLEY. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from Oregon.

CLIMATE DISRUPTION

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, climate disruption is the seminal challenge of our generation. It affects everything from our farming to our fishing to our forestry. We see the impact in disappearing glaciers, shrinking ice sheets, melting permafrost, dying coral reefs, more powerful storms, and migrating animals and insects.

In response, communities across the globe are transforming their energy economies. They are increasing the energy efficiency of their buildings and their vehicles and their appliances, and they are replacing carbon-polluting fossil fuel energy with clean, renewable energy.

How much do you know about the changes underway? Let’s find out.

Welcome to episode No. 2 of the Senate Climate Disruption Quiz.

First question: Which car company announced just last week that all of its new models will have an electric motor starting in 2019? Was it Toyota, which has the Prius currently, the Prius plug-in? Was it Volvo, known for its safety, or Honda, which advocates its fuel efficiency, or Ford, which has the all-electric Focus?

The answer is B: Volvo. On July 5, Volvo announced that beginning in 2019, every new model in its fleet will have some form of electric propulsion. These cars will include so-called “mild” hybrids featuring regenerative braking like the Prius, plug-in hybrids like the Volt, and fully electric cars like the Tesla. Volvo intends to do all of these forms.

Now for electric cars in mind, let’s move on to question No. 2: Which European country plans to ban the sale of new diesel and gas vehicles by the year 2040? Is it France or Spain or the United Kingdom or Switzerland? The answer is France.

Last week, on July 6, France’s Environment Minister Nicolas Hulot announced a new environmental plan for his country to reflect France’s commitment to the Paris climate agreement. Minister Hulot not only said that France will ban the sale of new diesel and gas cars starting in 2040, but will seek to shut down all of its coal-powered electric plants over the next 5 years—by the year 2022—and to pursue a “carbon-neutral” economy by the year 2050. That is the same as a net zero production of carbon dioxide.

Let’s turn to a different part of the world. Let’s go to the Southern Hemisphere. A crack in the Antarctic ice shelf will soon create an iceberg of what size? Will it be the size of Oregon, my home State, which is roughly 100,000 square miles; or the size of the Superdome in New Orleans, about 6 acres; or how about the size of Manhattan, 23 square miles; or Delaware, which is much larger, at about 2,000 square miles? The answer is D, Delaware.

The crack in this ice shelf will create an iceberg about the size of Delaware. This is Antarctica’s fourth largest ice shelf. The crack is now 120 miles long, and in some spots now it is 2 miles wide, and there are just 3 miles left in which it is attached to the ice shelf. So given the stresses that are being applied to that vast sheet of ice, the break is expected to happen in the next couple of weeks. When that happens, we will have an iceberg larger than 2,000 square miles—about the size of Delaware—and this will be such a large iceberg that it will contain roughly 1 trillion tons of ice.

Question No. 4: Global production of what fossil fuel fell by 6.2 percent in 2016? Was it coal or was it oil or was it natural gas?

The answer is A: coal. According to British Petroleum’s annual report, global coal production fell by over 6 percent last year—the largest decline since they started keeping statistics in 1950. What is driving the decline? It is shrinking coal production in both the United States and in China.

What is happening in the other two sectors—oil and gas? There was a slight increase in the production of oil last year, and the production of natural gas was basically flat. Now, compare these to renewable energy, which grew very quickly last year. Global wind energy grew by more than 15 percent in a single year, but that is a small amount compared to global solar energy, which grew by almost 30 percent—in a single year, almost a one-third increase in global production. And renewable energy is now taking up a larger share of the primary energy production worldwide.

Finally question No. 5: How many U.S. cities have joined the “We Are Still In” coalition? Is it the coalition that was formed after President Trump announced he was going to withdraw the United States from the Paris accord. Is it 15 cities, 125 cities, 500 cities, or just 100 cities?

The correct answer is B, and of course the number is increasing even as we speak. President Trump announced on June 1 that he would pull the United States out of the Paris accord and, in just that short period since—a little over 5 weeks—125 cities, 9 States, 500 businesses and investors, and 183 colleges and universities have declared that they are committed to the vision of the Paris Agreement and to taking steps to be part of obtaining and securing that vision. Together, this coalition represents 120 million Americans and a $6.2 trillion share of the U.S. economy.

It includes cities from the West, like Los Angeles, and the East, such as Baltimore. It includes cities in red States, like Houston, TX, and Tucson, AZ. It includes cities from the Southwest and Southeast, like Santa Fe, NM, from the Southwest, and Charleston, SC, in the Southeast.

These are just a few of the 125 cities—cities led by Democrats and Republicans—because the fact is, the threat of climate disruption to our planet is not a partisan issue. It is not a red issue or a blue issue; it is an issue that impacts everyone on this globe, regardless of political ideology.

So there you have it, folks. Episode No. 2 of the Senate Climate Disruption Quiz—questions ripped right from the headlines. How did you score?

Every week we have surprising new facts—new facts on the ground about the changes in the environment and new facts about the response of communities across the globe.

There is no question that we are racing the clock to take this on as human civilization, and there is no time to spare. So stay engaged in the fight.

In the near future, I will bring you Episode No. 3 of the Senate Climate Disruption Quiz to present some of the new issues that will unfold in the coming days. If you are following this quiz at home and have a good idea for a climate disruption question, please tweet it to me at @SenJeffMerkley on Twitter, using the hashtag ClimateQ4Jeff. Let’s fight together and save our beautiful blue-green planet.

I yield the floor.
EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLOOMERS
HON. MIKE THOMPSON
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, July 10, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor bloomers, a full-service floral shop in San Francisco, California, upon their 40th Anniversary.

On July 9, 1977, Patric Powell opened bloomers, which offers artistic arrangements designed with fresh flowers of exceptional quality, bloomers’ reputation for excellent service and beautiful arrangements has established an incredibly high standard in the flower community. Patric and the designers at bloomers have decades of experience choosing local flowers and materials to incorporate into their designs.

After many years of cultivating relationships in the business, Patric and his employees have become good friends with their customers and the wider community. Their work has brought delight, happiness and pleasure to many people over the years. Patric also frequently donates flowers, arrangements and gift certificates to local schools, churches and charities.

Making it in the small business universe is a challenge for anyone. Establishing a business that is successful for 40 years is a testament to Patric’s business acumen and his wisdom in hiring and retaining talented people. Success only happens when a great boss cares about both his business and the people that work for him. Patric is passionate about his work and is committed and loyal to his employees and customers. His employees praise Patric as the most kind, generous and dedicated person they know.

Mr. Speaker, Patric T. Powell and bloomers has been providing well-designed floral arrangements to his customers in the Bay Area of California for the past 40 years. I am proud of this hardworking man and everyone that has made bloomers a success over the years. It is fitting and proper that we honor them here today.

IN RECOGNITION OF LABOR OF LOVE OUTREACH MINISTRIES FOR ITS 35 YEARS OF SERVICE TO SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN
HON. DEBBIE DINGELL
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, July 10, 2017

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Labor of Love Ministries for 35 years of service to the southeast Michigan community and the groundbreaking for its new building in Pittsfield Township. Labor of Love has impacted countless lives through its outreach and religious service locally and internationally.

Originally founded in 1982 in Ann Arbor, Michigan, by a small group of individuals including Pastor Hawthorne and First Lady Hawthorne, Labor of Love Ministries has grown substantially to fulfill its mission of offering religious and education services to the community at large. In addition to holding regular prayer services, Labor of Love provides a variety of additional spiritual, counseling and support services to meet the needs of its congregation. These include training programs for those with individuals with a variety of backgrounds, as well as mission trips overseas for members of the church. Additionally, the church organizes charity drives and volunteer efforts to assist those in need in nearby communities, and these initiatives have helped provide important aid to less fortunate members of the congregation and groups in need. Collectively, these efforts by Pastor Hawthorne and others have helped establish Labor of Love as an effective organization that provides important services and support throughout the community.

Labor of Love Ministries has provided key spiritual guidance and assistance to its congregation and the greater southeast Michigan community. Throughout its 35 years, the church has continued to grow to meet the evolving needs of its members, and its new building will allow it to better serve those in need while fulfilling its mission of spiritual outreach and education. The growth and development of Labor of Love Ministries underscores its effectiveness in serving the community, and it is my hope that the church’s new facilities in Pittsfield Township will allow it to strengthen its offerings in the coming years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Labor of Love Ministries for 35 years of service and religious guidance. The organization has had a significant impact through its religious and charitable initiatives.

HONORING FRANCISCA “CISCA” P. TISHER
HON. MIKE THOMPSON
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, July 10, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Francisca “Cisca” P. Tisher upon her retirement as a judge on the Superior Court of Napa County in California. She is retiring after more than 20 years of judicial experience and service and has been an active member of our community for many years during her successful career.

Born in the Netherlands, Judge Tisher emigrated with her family at the age of three. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from the University of California, Davis in 1974. She went on to earn her Juris Doctorate degree in 1980 from the Empire College School of Law in Santa Rosa, California, and was admitted to the California State Bar later that year.

Prior to her appointment as a judge, Judge Tisher specialized in family law. She and her husband Tim have three children, so she worked hard to balance her family life and her career. In 1993, she received the Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Award for Napa County. Judge Tisher was appointed to the Napa County Superior Court by California Governor Pete Wilson in 1995, becoming the first female judge on the court. She served as the presiding judge from 2006 to 2008. Over her 22 years as a judge, Judge Tisher ruled on many cases on a variety of topics. For Judge Tisher, no case was trivial, and every case mattered and was important to the parties involved.

In addition to her work in the judiciary, Judge Tisher has been an active member of the Napa community. She has served on several boards, including the Napa Valley Domestic Violence and Prevention Board and the Napa Valley Activity Center Board. Judge Tisher is a compassionate and determined individual, and she has made a tremendous impact on Napa County.

Mr. Speaker, Francisca “Cisca” P. Tisher has led a long career in our community’s judicial system. She is an active member of our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today and extend our best wishes for an enjoyable retirement.

HONORING THE BIRTHDAY OF HIS HOLINESS THE XIV DALAI LAMA
HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, July 10, 2017

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the 82nd birthday of His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso. Born on July 6th, 1935 to a farming family in northeastern Tibet, His Holiness was recognized as the reincarnation of the previous Dalai Lama at the age of two.

Unlike previous Dalai Lamas, His Holiness has visited the west many times to speak with religious and political leaders on the importance of understanding and respect among faiths. His efforts toward peace and universal values of tolerance and compassion earned him the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989.

My district has had the honor of hosting His Holiness four times to speak at my Alma Mater, the University of California, Santa Barbara. The University has now established a Tibetan Studies endowment in his honor, the XIV Dalai Lama Endowed Chair in Tibetan Buddhist and Cultural Studies. His Holiness the Dalai Lama’s commitment to preserving Tibetan culture, and his teachings which promote respect for human rights and non-violent solutions are invaluable lessons for the world.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join with the global religious community in wishing the XIVth Dalai Lama a very happy birthday.

This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor. Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.
HONORING THE LIFE OF LORAIN CITY COUNCILMAN EDDIE C. EDWARDS

HON. MARCY KAPTUR
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, July 10, 2017

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the life of a respected public official and very dear friend, Lorain City Councilman Eddie C. Edwards. He passed away peacefully on June 27, 2017, after courageously battling illness over the last several years. Please let me offer the deepest condolences of our entire citizenry to his son Gregory Edwards, daughter Damisha Hunter and the countless friends and family whose lives he touched. A true public servant in the every sense, Eddie dedicated his life not only to making government work better for the people he served, but by striving to make the lives of all people, better.

Eddie began his career in politics in 1996, first elected to represent South Lorain’s Fifth Ward. Throughout his eighteen years of service on City Council, Eddie fought hard for his community—making his neighborhood safer, parks cleaner, improving education in schools and working toward enhancing and growing small businesses.

While Councilman Edward’s service to the City of Lorain will forever be remembered, Eddie’s contributions to the Lorain community started decades earlier.

Born and raised in the small town of Dyersburg, Tennessee, Eddie moved to Lorain when he was 20 years old, with less than 13 dollars in his pocket, seeking a better life. He immediately enrolled in school studying business and construction management, which jumpstarted a new life of helping build Lorain forward.

Eddie, who was the owner-operator of Edwards Trucking & Excavating for more than two decades, understood the role small businesses play in driving healthy local economies. Moreover, Eddie knew the value of minority owned businesses. As a founding member of the Lorain County Minority Contractors Association and Executive Board Member of the Minority Trucking and Transportation Association—Eddie paved the way for countless entrepreneurs to use their skills, grow our local economy and improve our community. His friends, family and colleagues recall his passion and willingness to stand up and speak his mind, always working toward equal rights and fighting for those left behind.

During the rise of the civil rights movement, Eddie was a founding member of the Committee for Positive Change in the Black Community and was the past president of the Lorain NAACP. And as an ordained Baptist Deacon, Eddie was a true champion and relentless advocate for African Americans and all those in need throughout our community.

A man of strong faith, Eddie worked each day fighting for those less fortunate. I myself recall a time when Eddie and I joined the Full Gospel Ministries and Pathways Enrichment Center in Lorain, planting a community garden as part of a community driven effort to produce fresh fruits and vegetables for the local food pantry.

As an African American, there is no question Councilman and businessman Edwards wrote a new chapter in the history of Lorain. As a man and leader in the community, the successes and struggles of Eddie’s generous life represent a beacon for generations to follow.

Last year, The Smithsonian opened the only national museum solely dedicated to recording and underscoring African Americans’ many contributions in art, history, culture and life. I would like to submit this Congressional Record to the National Museum of African American History and Culture on behalf Ed- die’s family to hallmark the life and lasting contributions of a true public servant.

Today, my thoughts and prayers are with the entire Edwards family. Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring Eddie C. Edwards, a loyal friend, a defender of democracy, a true public servant, a dedicated father, a loving husband and a courageous man.

HONORING CARMELA SANDOVAL AND MARIA SANCHEZ, RECIPIENTS OF THE AMERICAN DREAM AWARD

HON. MIKE THOMPSON
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, July 10, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor sisters, Ms. Carmela Sandoval and Ms. Sanchez, whom I have selected to receive the American Dream Award for California’s 5th Congressional District. This award recognizes the achievements of immigrants in my district who have made remarkable contributions to our community in the areas of Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, or Community Service. Ms. Sandoval and Ms. Sanchez are very deserving of this award and recognition.

Ms. Sandoval and Ms. Sanchez are daughters of Mexican immigrants to the United States. Together they own and manage Bere’s Bridal and Christening Wear in Vallejo, California. They are both successful and inspiring community leaders.

Prior to moving to Vallejo, Ms. Sandoval and Ms. Sanchez grew up and attended school in Los Angeles. Though she loved school, Maria had to withdraw to begin working to support her family. Their diligence, perseverance and sacrifice for family at such a young age embodies the ideals of the American dream and foreshadows their future roles as dedicated community leaders in Vallejo, California.

Carmela and Maria volunteer regularly for Vallejo Together, a nonprofit in our community that provides resources to homeless individuals. They also volunteer for Centro Latino, an organization that advocates for Latino youth in Vallejo. Every year, the sisters organize a holiday “posada” for underserved children, which includes a gift drive and a hot meal for all the youth in attendance. While Carmela and Maria are ambitious leaders, they remain humble and willing to lend a helping hand. Both sisters take pride in being loving parents, and, for Maria, being a grandparent as well.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize Ms. Carmela Sandoval and Ms. Sanchez for their achievements and for enriching our community. It is fitting and proper that we honor them here today with the American Dream Award.

TRUMP’S VOTER FRAUD COMMISSION IS A FRAUD AND SHOULD BE DISBANDED NOW

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, July 10, 2017

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, unable to cope with the brutal fact that he lost the popular vote, Mr. Trump by 1.5 million votes, the largest vote deficit of any president in American history, Donald Trump tweeted that he would have won the popular vote but for “millions of people who voted illegally.” Instead of producing any credible evidence to support this claim, a hoax that has been repeatedly and decisively debunked by experts, the President doubled down and issued an Executive Order establishing the “Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity” to produce “evidence that would support the commission’s conclusion that systemic fraud and other forms of voter fraud exist.”

It would be more accurate to characterize the PACEI as the “Presidential Advisory Commission on Voter Suppression.” Voter suppression is real but the oft-repeated claim that American elections are rife with voter fraud is a myth.

According to a comprehensive 2014 study published in The Washington Post, out of more than a billion votes cast between 2000 and 2014, only 31 credible instances of impersonation fraud were found, and even this tiny number was likely inflated because the study’s author counted not just voter fraud convictions or convictions but all credible claims. Numerous other reports have reached the same conclusion.

Any lingering doubt regarding the true purpose of the PACEI should be laid to rest by the request made by Commissioner Kobach on June 28, 2017 when he wrote a letter to the nation’s state secretaries of state requesting that they provide the Commission with “the full first and last names of all registrants, middle names or initials if available, addresses, dates of birth, political party (if recorded), military status, and overseas citizen information.”

Instead of producing any credible evidence or convictions but all credible claims. Numerous other reports have reached the same conclusion.

The information requested by the Commission will not prevent voter fraud. It will violate rather than protect voter privacy.

And it will make it easier to craft legislation and devise campaign strategies intended to suppress the vote in urban clusters and among targeted demographic groups, particularly minority voters.

It is important that all voters, and the people of the 18th Congressional District of Texas whom I am privileged to represent, be fully protected.

While supplying only public voter information may seem secure, the sad fact is that it is not. There is no publicly accessible database of voter registration information in any of the 50 states or the District of Columbia.

That is because information of this kind is protected from public disclosure under the settled principle of “collective privacy” recognized
by the Supreme Court in the landmark decision of NAACP v. Alabama, 377 U.S. 288, 84 S. Ct. 1302, 12 L. Ed. 2d 325 (1964), which held that compelled disclosure of affiliation with groups engaged in advocacy may constitute an impermissible chilling effect on the freedom of association guaranteed by the First Amendment, a holding that has been affirmed repeatedly.

Accordingly, neither Texas nor any state can, consistent with the U.S. Constitution, supply the voter information requested by the PACEI.

Indeed, if the information sought was as public in nature as PACEI contends, there simply would be no need for it to request the information from state governments.

Trump's voter suppression commission is a solution in search of a problem.

Contrary to what Trump and Kobach would have the public believe, American elections are not rife with widespread voter fraud. Studies have shown that it is more likely an American will be struck by lightning than that he will impersonate another voter at the polls.

No, the major ill affecting our election system is not that too many people vote due to voter fraud, but that too many people are prevented from voting due to voter suppression schemes such as discriminatory photo identification requirements, curtailment of early voting, closing polling stations leading to long lines and excessive wait times, purging of election rolls.

Even in the wholly unimaginable event that the commission created by Donald Trump and led by Kris Kobach could be trusted enough for states to cooperate by sharing their voter data, there is no reasonable basis for assuming that information would be kept secure and the privacy of voters protected.

Recent cyberattacks have made clear the vulnerability of large central databases to cyberattack. An information security breach at the Department of Veterans Affairs compromised sensitive personal data of 26.5 million persons and cost the VA between $100 million to $500 million to remediate; another occurring at the Office of Personnel Management led to the breach of records current and former federal employees, many of whom held sensitive security clearances; and the attack on Yahoo, the mother of all security breaches, revealed that too many people are precluded from voting due to vote suppression.

HONORING THE HARRIET TUBMAN FREEDOM MUSIC FESTIVAL

HON. JOHN KATKO
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, July 10, 2017
Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the second annual Harriet Tubman Freedom Music Festival in Auburn, New York. Auburn is a place that Harriet Tubman once called home, and our community is proud to preserve and highlight her extraordinary life's work. This concert pays tribute to Harriet Tubman's remarkable legacy through music.

The Harriet Tubman Freedom Music Festival's creator, Sean McLeod, is an Auburn native and descendant of a slave rescued by Harriet Tubman. McLeod is a member of the Thompson AME Zion Church and has devoted much of his life to the Harriet Tubman Home, now a National Historic Park. McLeod established the Harriet Tubman Freedom Music Festival to develop both a local and global impact through partnerships with a variety of businesses and nonprofits. McLeod also composed "A Soundtrack for Harriet Tubman," which will be featured at this year's Music Festival.

This celebration is a fitting tribute to a woman who escaped slavery and devoted her life to advancing the freedom and equality of African Americans and the rights of women. I am honored to recognize the Harriet Tubman Freedom Music Festival and I wish it continued success in the years to come.

HONORING AMELIA MORÁN CEJA, RECIPIENT OF THE AMERICAN DREAM AWARD

HON. MIKE THOMPSON
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, July 10, 2017
Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Amelia Ceja, whom I have selected to receive the American Dream Award for California's 5th Congressional District. This award recognizes the achievements of immigrants in my district who have made remarkable contributions to our communities in the areas of Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, or Community Service. Ms. Ceja is very deserving of this award and recognition.

Ms. Ceja was born in Las Flores, Jalisco, an agricultural village in Mexico, and immigrated to the United States at the age of 12. She is a successful businesswoman and an important member of our community.

Ms. Ceja moved with her family to the Napa Valley American Viticulture Area in California as a child. Her parents worked for a local vineyard management company, her father as a mechanic and her mother as a farm worker. She met her husband, Pedro Ceja, while picking grapes with their families. In 1983, the Ceja family came together to purchase 15 acres and to plant their own grapes. The family later founded Ceja Vineyards, Inc. in 1999. Today they own 113 producing acres. Ms. Ceja is the first Mexican American woman to be the president of a California winery. Her vineyard and winery are famous for their quality grape harvests and production of premium Cameross wines.

Ms. Ceja cares deeply about the family business and employees. She is dedicated to producing the highest quality of wine. The California Legislature recognized her contributions to the community on March 15, 2005 by naming her "Woman of the Year." Ms. Ceja's story is one of sacrifice and determination. Stories like hers make America great.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize Ms. Amelia Morán Ceja for her achievements and for enriching our community. It is fitting and proper that we honor her here today with the American Dream Award.

IN RECOGNITION OF REV. JIM HOLLEY FOR HIS CAREER AS A PASTOR AND COMMUNITY ACTIVIST

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, July 10, 2017
Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rev. Jim Holley of the Historic Little Rock Missionary Baptist Church. For 45 years, Rev. Holley has been a tireless advocate on behalf of Detroit as a faith leader and community activist.

After receiving theological training at the Chicago Theological Seminary, Rev. Holley began his career as a pastor at the Little Rock Baptist Church in Detroit, Michigan. During his time with the church, Rev. Holley has distinguished himself as a key member of the great Detroit community who understands the spiritual needs and concerns of the city and its residents. His service in church leadership roles, including President of the Council of the Baptist Pastors, speaks to his dedication to the congregation and the well-being of the city at large. Rev. Holley has also been involved in the business community, working with local real estate organizations and founding an advertising agency to empower Detroit's residents and create jobs.

In addition to these duties, Rev. Holley also served as the City of Detroit's Director of Community Affairs during Mayor Duggan's administration, where he was a liaison between the mayor's office and the Detroit community at large.
SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, as finally amended, vests in the Senate the power to establish 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, July 11, 2017 may be found in the Daily Digest of today’s RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 12

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2018 for the Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services.

SD–124

Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of David Joel Trachtenberg, of Virginia, to be a Principal Deputy Under Secretary, Owen West, of Connecticut, to be an Assistant Secretary, Ryan McCarthy, of Illinois, to be Under Secretary of the Army, and Charles Douglas Stimson, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Navy, all of the Department of Defense.

SD–520

Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Christopher A. Wray, of Georgia, to be Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice.

SD–226

Special Committee on Aging
To hold hearings to examine nourishing our golden years, focusing on how proper and adequate nutrition promote healthy aging and positive outcomes.

SD–962

9:45 a.m.
Committee on Environment and Public Works
Business meeting to consider S. 822, to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to modify provisions relating to grants, S. 1447, to reauthorize the diesel emissions reduction program, S. 1359, to amend the John F. Kennedy Center Act to authorize appropriations for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, S. 810, to facilitate construction of a bridge on certain property in Christian County, Missouri, S. 1365, to revise the boundaries of certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units in Delaware, General Services Administration resolutions, and the nominations of Michelle C. Capito, of Virginia, and David Wright, of South Carolina, each to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and Susan Parker Bodine, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the use of the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act and innovative financing in improving infrastructure to enhance safety, mobility, and economic opportunity.

SD–406

10 a.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine force multipliers, focusing on how transportation and supply chain stakeholders are combating human trafficking.

SR–253

Committee on Foreign Relations
Business meeting to consider the nomination of Michael A. Green, of Wisconsin, to be Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and routine lists in the Foreign Service; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the Taylor Force Act.

SD–419

Joint Economic Committee
To hold hearings to examine a record six million United States job vacancies, focusing on reasons and remedies.

RHOB–2020

2:15 p.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy
To hold hearings to examine American leadership in the Asia Pacific, focusing on promoting democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

SD–419

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
Business meeting to markup an original bill entitled, ‘Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2018’.

SD–124

Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold hearings to examine S. 943, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct an accurate comprehensive student count for the purposes of calculating formula allocations for programs under the Johnson-O’Malley Act, S. 1223, to repeal the Klamath Tribes Judgment Fund Act, and S. 1385, to allow the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians to lease or transfer certain lands.

SD–628

Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Border Security and Immigration
To hold hearings to examine the problem of visa overstays, focusing on a need for better tracking and accountability.

SD–226

JULY 13

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the attempted coup in Montenegro and malign Russian influence in Europe.

SD–450

Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the 2017 Trafficking in Persons Report.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Patrick Pizzella, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Labor, and Marvin Kaplan, of Kansas, and William J. Emanuel, of California, both to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board.

SD–430

10 a.m.
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine opportunities in global and local markets, specialty crops, and organics, focusing on perspectives for the 2018 Farm Bill.

SR–328A

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the Semi-annual Monetary Policy Report to the Congress.

SD–538

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Subcommittee on Space, Science, and Competitiveness
To hold hearings to examine reopening the American frontier, focusing on promoting partnerships between commercial space and the United States government to advance exploration and settlement.

SR–253

Committee on the Judiciary
Business meeting to consider the nominations of John Kenneth Bush, of Kentucky, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, Kevin Christopher Newson, of Alabama, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, and Damien Michael Schiff, of California, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

SD–226
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Kevin K. McAleenan, of Hawaii, to be Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security.

Business meeting to markup an original bill entitled, “Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2018”.

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2018 for the Department of Transportation.

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To receive a briefing on energy insecurity in Russia’s periphery.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine managing security sector assistance to support foreign policy.
HIGHLIGHTS

See Résumé of Congressional Activity.

*Senate*

**Chamber Action**

*Routine Proceedings, pages S3873–S3888*

**Measures Introduced:** Six bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 1518–1523, and S. Res. 216.  
Page S3885

**Measures Reported:**

S. 123, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require multi-line telephone systems to have a default configuration that permits users to directly initiate a call to 9–1–1 without dialing any additional digit, code, prefix, or post-fix. (S. Rept. No. 115–124)

S. 1519, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year. (S. Rept. No. 115–125)

S. 1024, to amend title 38, United States Code, to reform the rights and processes relating to appeals of decisions regarding claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 115–126)  
Pages S3884–85

**Appointments:**

*Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress:* The Chair announced, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, pursuant to Public Law 101–509, the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress: Carol A. Mandel of New York.  
Page S3887

**Nye Nomination—Agreement:** Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of David C. Nye, of Idaho, to be United States District Judge for the District of Idaho.  
Page S3880

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

By a unanimous vote of 97 yeas (Vote No. 157), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.  
Pages S3879–80

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 2:15 p.m., on Tuesday, July 11, 2017; and that all time during morning business, recess, adjournment, and Leader remarks count post-cloture on the nomination.  
Page S3887

**Nomination Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 54 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. EX. 156), Neomi Rao, of the District of Columbia, to be Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget.  
Page S3879

**Messages from the House:**

Page S3884

**Measures Referred:**

Pages S3884

**Additional Cosponsors:**

Pages S3885–86

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:**

Pages S3886–87

**Additional Statements:**

Pages S3883–84

**Record Votes:** Two record votes were taken today. (Total—157)  
Pages S3879 and S3879–80

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 6:39 p.m., until 2:15 p.m. on Tuesday, July 11, 2017. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S3887.)

**Committee Meetings**

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.
House of Representatives

Chamber Action
Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 6 public bills, H.R. 3169–3174 were introduced. Pages H5390–91

Additional Cosponsors: Page H5391
Report Filed: A report was filed on July 6, 2017 as follows:
H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–200).

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

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Rev. Gary Studniewski, St. Peter’s Catholic Church, Washington, DC.

Women’s Suffrage Centennial Commission—Appointments: Read a letter from Representative Pelosi, Minority Leader, in which she appointed the following individuals from private life to serve as Commissioners to the Women’s Suffrage Centennial Commission: Ms. Nicola Miner of San Francisco, California and Ms. Jennifer Siebel Newsom of San Francisco, California.

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 10 a.m. and adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

Committee Meetings
No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings
No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS
(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D729)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, JULY 11, 2017
(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate
Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Richard V. Spencer, of Wyoming, to be Secretary of the Navy, Department of Defense, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of David Steele Bohigian, of Missouri, to be Executive Vice President of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, Ray Washburne, of Texas, to be President of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, and Kelley Eckels Currie, of Georgia, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during her tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, and to be Representative of the United States of America on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador, and Jay Patrick Murray, of Virginia, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during his tenure of service as Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations, both of the Department of State, 10 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: business meeting to consider the nominations of Claire M. Grady, of Pennsylvania, to be Under Secretary for Management, Department of Homeland Security, and Henry Kerner, of California, to be Special Counsel, Office of Special Counsel; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the nominations of David James Glawe, of Iowa, to be Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, and David P. Pekoske, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary, both of the Department of Homeland Security, 10 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on Judicature: Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism, to hold hearings to examine concurrent Congressional and criminal investigations, focusing on lessons from history, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: to hold hearings to examine S. 115, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for an operation on a live donor for purposes of conducting a transplant procedure for a veteran, S. 426, to increase educational assistance provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs for education and training of physician assistants of the Department, to establish pay grades and
require competitive pay for physician assistants of the Department, S. 683, to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the requirement to provide nursing home care to certain veterans with service-connected disabilities, S. 833, to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand health care and benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs for military sexual trauma, S. 946, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to hire additional Veterans Justice Outreach Specialists to provide treatment court services to justice-involved veterans, S. 1153, to prohibit or suspend certain health care providers from providing non-Department of Veterans Affairs health care services to veterans, S. 1261, to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to pay the reasonable costs of urgent care provided to certain veterans, to establish cost-sharing amounts for veterans receiving care at an emergency room of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 1266, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts with nonprofit organizations to investigate medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 1279, to amend title 38, United States Code, to furnish health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs through the use of non-Department health care providers, S. 1325, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the authorities of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to hire, recruit, and train employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and an original bill entitled, “The Department of Veterans Affairs Quality Employment Act of 2017”, 2:30 p.m., SR–418.

Select Committee on Intelligence: closed business meeting to consider pending intelligence matters; to be immediately followed by a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:15 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, markup on the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2018, 7 p.m., 2358–A Rayburn.


CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD
Week of July 11 through July 14, 2017

Senate Chamber

On Tuesday, Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of David C. Nye, of Idaho, to be United States District Judge for the District of Idaho, post-cloture.

Upon disposition of the nomination of David C. Nye, of Idaho, to be United States District Judge for the District of Idaho, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of William Francis Hagerty IV, of Tennessee, to be Ambassador to Japan.

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 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: July 13, to hold hearings to examine opportunities in global and local markets, specialty crops, and organics, focusing on perspectives for the 2018 Farm Bill, 10 a.m., SR–528A.

Committee on Appropriations: July 12, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2018 for the Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services, 9:30 a.m., SD–124.

July 12, Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, business meeting to markup an original bill entitled, “Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2018”, 2:30 p.m., SD–124.

July 13, Full Committee, business meeting to markup an original bill entitled, “Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2018”, 10:30 a.m., SD–106.

July 13, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2018 for the Department of Transportation, 2 p.m., SD–192.

Committee on Armed Services: July 11, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Richard V. Spencer, of Wyoming, to be Secretary of the Navy, Department of Defense, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

July 12, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of David Joel Trachtenberg, of Virginia, to be a Principal Deputy Under Secretary, Owen West, of Connecticut, to be an Assistant Secretary, Ryan McCarthry, of Illinois, to be Under Secretary of the Army, and Charles Douglas Stimson, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Navy, all of the Department of Defense, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

July 13, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the attempted coup in Montenegro and malign Russian influence in Europe, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: July 13, to hold hearings to examine the Semiannual Monetary Policy Report to the Congress, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: July 12, to hold hearings to examine force multipliers, focusing on how transportation and supply chain stakeholders are combating human trafficking, 10 a.m., SR–253.

July 13, Subcommittee on Space, Science, and Competitiveness, to hold hearings to examine reopening the American frontier, focusing on promoting partnerships between commercial space and the United States government to advance exploration and settlement, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: July 12, business meeting to consider S. 822, to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to modify provisions relating to

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Richard V. Spencer, of Wyoming, to be Secretary of the Navy, Department of Defense, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

July 13, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of David Joel Trachtenberg, of Virginia, to be a Principal Deputy Under Secretary, Owen West, of Connecticut, to be an Assistant Secretary, Ryan McCarthry, of Illinois, to be Under Secretary of the Army, and Charles Douglas Stimson, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Navy, all of the Department of Defense, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

July 13, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the attempted coup in Montenegro and malign Russian influence in Europe, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: July 13, to hold hearings to examine the Semiannual Monetary Policy Report to the Congress, 10 a.m., SD–538.

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July 13, Subcommittee on Space, Science, and Competitiveness, to hold hearings to examine reopening the American frontier, focusing on promoting partnerships between commercial space and the United States government to advance exploration and settlement, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: July 12, business meeting to consider S. 822, to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to modify provisions relating to
grants, S. 1447, to reauthorize the diesel emissions reduction program, S. 1359, to amend the John F. Kennedy Center Act to authorize appropriations for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, S. 810, to facilitate construction of a bridge on certain property in Christian County, Missouri, S. 1395, to revise the boundaries of certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units in Delaware, General Services Administration resolutions, and the nominations of Annie Caputo, of Virginia, and David Wright, of South Carolina, each to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and Susan Parker Bodine, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the use of the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act and innovative financing in improving infrastructure to enhance safety, mobility, and economic opportunity, 9:45 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Finance: July 13, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Kevin K. McAleenan, of Hawaii, to be Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, 10:15 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: July 11, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of David Steele Bohigian, of Missouri, to be Executive Vice President of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, Ray Washburne, of Texas, to be President of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, and Kelley Eckels Currie, of Georgia, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during her tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, and to be Representative of the United States of America on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador, and Jay Patrick Murray, of Virginia, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during his tenure of service as Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations, both of the Department of State, 10 a.m., SD–419.

July 12, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nomination of Mark Andrew Green, of Wisconsin, to be Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and routine lists in the Foreign Service; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the Taylor Force Act, 10 a.m., SD–419.

July 12, Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy, to hold hearings to examine American leadership in the Asia Pacific, focusing on promoting democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, 2:15 p.m., SD–419.

July 13, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the 2017 Trafficking in Persons Report, 9:30 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: July 13, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Patrick Pizzella, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Labor, and Marvin Kaplan, of Kansas, and William J. Emanuel, of California, both to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board, 9:30 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: July 11, business meeting to consider the nominations of Claire M. Grady, of Pennsylvania, to be Under Secretary for Management, Department of Homeland Security, and Henry Kerner, of California, to be Special Counsel, Office of Special Counsel; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the nominations of David James Glawe, of Iowa, to be Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, and David P. Pekoske, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary, both of the Department of Homeland Security, 10 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: July 12, to hold hearings to examine S. 943, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct an accurate comprehensive student count for the purposes of calculating formula allocations for programs under the Johnson-O’Malley Act, S. 1223, to repeal the Klamath Tribe Judgment Fund Act, and S. 1285, to allow the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians to lease or transfer certain lands, 2:30 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on Judiciary: July 11, Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism, to hold hearings to examine concurrent Congressional and criminal investigations, focusing on lessons from history, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

July 12, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Christopher A. Wray, of Georgia, to be Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice, 9:30 a.m., SD–226.

July 12, Subcommittee on Border Security and Immigration, to hold hearings to examine the problem of visa overstays, focusing on a need for better tracking and accountability, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

July 13, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nominations of John Kenneth Bush, of Kentucky, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, Kevin Christopher Newsom, of Alabama, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, and Damien Michael Schiff, of California, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: July 11, to hold hearings to examine S. 115, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for an operation on a live donor for purposes of conducting a transplant procedure for a veteran, S. 426, to increase educational assistance provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs for education and training of physician assistants of the Department, to establish pay grades and require competitive pay for physician assistants of the Department, S. 683, to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the requirement to provide nursing home care to certain veterans with service-connected disabilities, S. 833, to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand health care and benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs for military sexual trauma, S. 946, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs...
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Select Committee on Intelligence: July 11, closed business meeting to consider pending intelligence matters; to be immediately followed by a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:15 p.m., SH–219.

July 13, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2 p.m., SH–219.

Special Committee on Aging: July 12, to hold hearings to examine nourishing our golden years, focusing on how proper and adequate nutrition promote healthy aging and positive outcomes, 9:30 a.m., SD–562.

House Committees

Committee on Agriculture, July 12, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Next Farm Bill: Technology and Innovation in Specialty Crops”, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

July 13, Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management, hearing entitled “The Future of Farming: Technological Innovations, Opportunities, and Challenges for Producers”, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, July 12, Full Committee, markup on the Agriculture Appropriations Bill, FY 2018; and the Energy and Water Appropriations Bill, FY 2018, 10:30 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.


July 13, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, markup on the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Bill, FY 2018, 3 p.m., 2362–A Rayburn.


Committee on Education and the Workforce, July 12, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Redefining Joint Employer Standards: Barriers to Job Creation and Entrepreneurship”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.


Committee on Energy and Commerce, July 12, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Combating the Opioid Crisis: Battles in the States”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

July 12, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Examining Medical Product Manufacturer Communications”, 10:15 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, July 12, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Semi-Annual Testimony on the Federal Reserve’s Supervision and Regulation of the Financial System”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

July 12, Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit, hearing entitled “Examining Legislative Proposals to Provide Targeted Regulatory Relief to Community Financial Institutions”, 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.


Committee on Foreign Affairs, July 12, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Beyond Microfinance: Empowering Women in the Developing World”, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

July 12, Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, hearing entitled “Advancing U.S. Interests in the Western Hemisphere: The FY 2018 Budget Request”, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

July 12, Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, hearing entitled “Black Flags over Mindanao: Terrorism in Southeast Asia”, 2:30 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

July 13, Subcommittee on Middle East and North Africa, hearing entitled “America’s Interests in the Middle East and North Africa: The President’s FY 2018 Budget Request”, 1 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.


Committee on the Judiciary, July 12, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 469, the “Sunshine for Regulations and Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Acts of 2017”; and H.R. 2851, the “Stop the Importation and Trafficking of Synthetic Analogues Act of 2017”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.


Committee on Natural Resources, July 12, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing entitled “Evaluating Federal Offshore Oil and Gas Development on the Outer Continental Shelf”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

July 15, Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs, hearing entitled “Comparing 21st Century Trust Land Acquisition with the Intent of the 73rd Congress in Section 5 of the Indian Reorganization Act”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

July 14, Subcommittee on Federal Lands, hearing on H.R. 873, the “Global War on Terrorism War Memorial Act”; H.R. 1547, the “Udall Park Land Exchange Completion Act”; H.R. 2582, the “Confirming State Land Grants for Education Act”; and H.R. 3115, the “Superior National Forest Land Exchange Act of 2017”, 9 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, July 12, Subcommittee on Government Operations; and Subcommittee on Information Technology, joint hearing entitled “General Services Administration—Acquisition Oversight and Reform”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, July 12, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 2810, the “National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018” {amendment consideration}, 3 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, July 12, Subcommittee on Research and Technology, hearing entitled “U.S. Fire Administration and Fire Grant Programs Reauthorization: Examining Effectiveness and Priorities”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, July 12, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Help or Hindrance? A Review of SBA’s Office of the Chief Information Officer”, 11 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.


Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, July 12, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Care Where It Counts: Assessing VA’s Capital Asset Needs”, 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

July 12, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, markup on H.R. 2006, the “VA Procurement Efficiency and Transparency Act”; H.R. 2749, the “Protecting Business Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2017”; H.R. 2781, the “Ensuring Veteran Enterprise Participation in Strategic Sourcing Act”; and H.R. 3169, the “VA Acquisition Workforce Improvement and Streamlining Act”, 1 p.m., 334 Cannon.

July 12, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, markup on H.R. 282, the “Military Residency Choice Act”; H.R. 1690, the “Department of Veterans Affairs Bonus Transparency Act”; and H.R. 2772, the “SEA Act”, 2 p.m., 334 Cannon.

July 13, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations; and Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, joint hearing entitled “Examining VA’s Processing of Gulf War Illness Claims”, 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

July 13, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Maximizing Access and Resources: An Examination of VA Productivity and Efficiency”, 2 p.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, July 13, Subcommittee on Tax Policy, hearing on “How Tax Reform Will Help America’s Small Businesses Grow and Create New Jobs”, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.


Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, July 13, Full Committee, markup on the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018, 9 a.m., HVC–304. This hearing will be closed.

Joint Meetings

Joint Economic Committee: July 12, to hold hearings to examine a record six million United States job vacancies, focusing on reasons and remedies, 10 a.m., 2020 Rayburn.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: July 13, to receive a briefing on energy insecurity in Russia’s periphery, 3:30 p.m., SD–G11.
Résumé of Congressional Activity

FIRST SESSION OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

The first table gives a comprehensive résumé of all legislative business transacted by the Senate and House. The second table accounts for all nominations submitted to the Senate by the President for Senate confirmation.

### DATA ON LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

**January 3 through June 30, 2017**

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<tr>
<td>House joint resolutions</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate concurrent resolutions</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House concurrent resolutions</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Simple resolutions</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measures reported, total</td>
<td>*162</td>
<td>*196</td>
<td>358</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senate bills</td>
<td>117</td>
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<td>House bills</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>160</td>
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<td>Senate joint resolutions</td>
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<td>House joint resolutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>House concurrent resolutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Simple resolutions</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special reports</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14</td>
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<td>Conference reports</td>
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<tr>
<td>Measures pending on calendar</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>167</td>
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<tr>
<td>Measures introduced, total</td>
<td>1,789</td>
<td>3,765</td>
<td>5,554</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bills</td>
<td>1,507</td>
<td>3,161</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joint resolutions</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>153</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concurrent resolutions</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>89</td>
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<tr>
<td>Simple resolutions</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>429</td>
<td>644</td>
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<td>Quorum calls</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>Yea-and-nay votes</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>332</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recorded votes</td>
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<td>166</td>
<td>166</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bills vetoed</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Vetoes overridden</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*These figures include all measures reported, even if there was no accompanying report. A total of 123 written reports have been filed in the Senate, 198 reports have been filed in the House.*

### DISPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

**January 3 through June 30, 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Senate</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civilian nominations, totaling 242, disposed of as follows:</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unconfirmed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Withdrawn</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Civilian nominations, totaling 710, disposed of as follows:</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Confirmed</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unconfirmed</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Force nominations, totaling 3,078, disposed of as follows:</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unconfirmed</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Army nominations, totaling 3,819, disposed of as follows:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Confirmed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unconfirmed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Navy nominations, totaling 1,622, disposed of as follows:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Confirmed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unconfirmed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marine Corps nominations, totaling 1,311, disposed of as follows:</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Confirmed</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unconfirmed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Summary | Total nominations carried over from the First Session | 0 |
|         | Total nominations received this Session | 10,782 |
|         | Total confirmed | 7,773 |
|         | Total unconfirmed | 2,983 |
|         | Total withdrawn | 26 |
|         | Total returned to the White House | 0 |
Next Meeting of the SENATE
2:15 p.m., Tuesday, July 11

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of David C. Nye, of Idaho, to be United States District Judge for the District of Idaho, post-cloture.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
12 noon, Tuesday, July 11

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of the following measures under suspension of the Rules: (1) H.R. 1492—Medical Controlled Substances Transportation Act of 2017; (2) H.R. 702—Federal Employee Antidiscrimination Act of 2017; (3) H.R. 1988—to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1730 18th Street in Bakersfield, California, as the Merle Haggard Post Office Building; (4) H.R. 954—to remove the use restrictions on certain land transferred to Rockingham County, Virginia; (5) H.R. 1397—to authorize, direct, facilitate, and expedite the transfer of administrative jurisdiction of certain Federal land; (6) H.R. 1404—Pascua Yaqui Tribe Land Conveyance Act; (7) H.R. 1541—to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire certain property related to the Fort Scott National Historic Site in Fort Scott, Kansas; (8) H.R. 1719—John Muir National Historic Site Expansion Act; (9) H.R. 1913—Clear Creek National Recreation Area and Conservation Act; (10) H.R. 1306—Western Oregon Tribal Fairness Act; (11) H.R. 2156—Saint Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Act; and (12) H.R. 597—Lytton Rancheria Homelands Act of 2017.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSR

Carbajal, Salud O., Calif., E947
Dingell, Debbie, Mich., E947, E949
Jackson Lee, Sheila, Tex., E948
Kaptur, Marcy, Ohio, E948
Katko, John, N.Y., E949
Thompson, Mike, Calif., E947, E947, E948, E949

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