

# Daily Digest

## HIGHLIGHTS

Senate confirmed the nomination of Ashton B. Carter, of Massachusetts, to be Secretary of Defense.

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S947–S1012*

**Measures Introduced:** Sixty bills and ten resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 470–529, and S. Res. 73–82. **Pages S981–84**

#### Measures Reported:

H.R. 22, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. (S. Rept. No. 114–3)

S. Res. 73, authorizing expenditures by committees of the Senate for the periods March 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015, October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016, and October 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017. **Page S981**

#### Measures Passed:

**Authorizing Expenditures by Committees:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 73, authorizing expenditures by committees of the Senate for the periods March 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015, October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016, and October 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017. **Page S1010**

**Calling for the Release of Ukrainian Fighter Pilot Nadiya Savchenko:** Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 52, calling for the release of Ukrainian fighter pilot Nadiya Savchenko, who was captured by Russian forces in Eastern Ukraine and has been held illegally in a Russian prison since July 2014, and the resolution was then agreed to, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

**Pages S1010–11**

McConnell (for Cardin) Amendment No. 251, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S1010–11**

**Relative to the Death of Jerry Tarkanian:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 78, relative to the death of Jerry Tarkanian, former head basketball coach of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. **Page S1011**

**Honoring Dean Edwards Smith:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 79, honoring Dean Edwards Smith, former head coach for the men's basketball team for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. **Page S1011**

**Lunar New Year:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 80, recognizing the cultural and historical significance of Lunar New Year. **Page S1011**

**Human Trafficking:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 81, expressing the sense of the Senate that children trafficked for sex in the United States should not be treated or regarded as child prostitutes because there is no such thing as a “child prostitute”, only children who are victims or survivors of rape and sex trafficking. **Page S1011**

**Commending Kathleen Alvarez Tritak:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 82, commending Kathleen Alvarez Tritak on her service to the United States Senate. **Page S1011**

#### Measures Considered:

**Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act—Agreement:** Senate continued consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 240, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015. **Pages S947–49, S967**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, February 12, 2015, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, February 23, 2015. **Page S968**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at 4:30 p.m., on Monday, February 23,

2015, Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S967**

#### **Appointments:**

**Senate National Security Working Group:** The Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 64, adopted March 5, 2013, appointed the following Senators as members of the Senate National Security Working Group for the 114th Congress:

Senator Feinstein (Democratic Administrative Co-Chairman), Senator Mikulski (Democratic Co-Chairman), Senator Reed (Democratic Co-Chairman), Senator Menendez (Democratic Co-Chairman), Senator Durbin, Senator Nelson, Senator Cardin, Senator Casey, and Senator Heitkamp. **Page S1011**

**Commission on Care:** The Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 113–146, appointed the following individuals to serve as members of the Commission on Care:

Dr. Ikram Khan of Nevada, Phillip Longman of the District of Columbia, and Dr. Marshall Webster of Pennsylvania. **Page S1011**

**Signing Authority—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that during this adjournment of the Senate, running until February 23, 2015, the Majority Leader, and the junior Senator from Missouri, be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions. **Page S1011**

**Authorizing Leadership To Make Appointments—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that, notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President Pro Tempore, and the Majority and Minority Leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate. **Page S1011**

**Pro Forma Sessions—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that when the Senate adjourn, it convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Monday, February 16, 2015 at 4:45 p.m., and Thursday, February 19, 2015, at 10 a.m.; and that the Senate adjourn on Thursday, February 19, 2015, until 3 p.m., on Monday, February 23, 2015. **Pages S1011–12**

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

By 93 yeas to 5 nays (Vote No. EX. 56), Ashton B. Carter, of Massachusetts, to be Secretary of Defense. **Pages S955–67, S1012**

**Nominations Received:** Senate received the following nominations:

Brodi L. Fontenot, of Louisiana, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of the Treasury.

Deborah Willis, of New York, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2020.

Ann Elizabeth Dunkin, of California, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Jane Toshiko Nishida, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Seth B. Carpenter, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

Charles C. Adams, Jr., of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Finland.

Sarah Elizabeth Mendelson, of the District of Columbia, to be Representative of the United States of America on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador.

Sarah Elizabeth Mendelson, of the District of Columbia, 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.

Mary Catherine Phee, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to the Republic of South Sudan.

David Michael Bennett, of North Carolina, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2018.

6 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

1 Army nomination in the rank of general.

11 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

**Page S1012**

**Messages from the House:**

**Page S981**

**Measures Referred:**

**Page S981**

**Executive Reports of Committees:**

**Page S981**

**Additional Cosponsors:**

**Pages S984–85**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:**

**Page S985–S1009**

**Additional Statements:**

**Pages S980–81**

**Amendments Submitted:**

**Pages S1009–10**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:**

**Page S1010**

**Privileges of the Floor:**

**Page S1010**

**Record Votes:** One record vote was taken today. (Total—56) **Page S967**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 6:34 p.m., until 4:45 p.m. on Monday, February 16, 2015. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on pages S1011–12.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### AFGHANISTAN

*Committee on Armed Services:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the situation in Afghanistan, after receiving testimony from General John F. Campbell, USA, Commander, Resolute Support Mission, and Commander, United States Forces Afghanistan.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Armed Services:* Committee ordered favorably reported S. 165, to extend and enhance prohibitions and limitations with respect to the transfer or release of individuals detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, with amendments.

### REGULATORY RELIEF FOR COMMUNITY BANKS AND CREDIT UNIONS

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine regulatory relief for community banks and credit unions, including S. 423, to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception to the annual written privacy notice requirement, after receiving testimony from R. Daniel Blanton, Southeastern Bank Financial Corporation and Georgia Bank and Trust, Augusta, on behalf of the American Bankers Association; Wally Murray, Greater Nevada Credit Union, Carson City, on behalf of the Credit Union National Association; John Buhrmaster, First National Bank of Scotia, Scotia, New York, on behalf of the Independent Community Bankers of America; Ed Templeton, SRP Federal Credit Union, North Augusta, South Carolina, on behalf of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions; and Michael D. Calhoun, Center for Responsible Lending, Durham, North Carolina.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* Committee announced the following subcommittee assignments:

*Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security:* Senators Ayotte (Chair), Wicker, Blunt, Rubio, Cruz, Fischer, Moran, Sullivan, Johnson, Heller, Gardner, Cantwell, Klobuchar, Blumenthal, Schatz, Markey, Booker, Udall, Manchin, and Peters.

*Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet:* Senators Wicker (Chair), Blunt, Rubio, Ayotte, Cruz, Fischer, Moran, Sullivan, Johnson, Heller, Gardner, Daines, Schatz, Cantwell, McCaskill, Klobuchar, Blumenthal, Markey, Booker, Udall, Manchin, and Peters.

*Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, Insurance, and Data Security:* Senators Moran (Chair), Blunt, Cruz, Fischer, Heller, Gardner, Daines, Blumenthal, McCaskill, Klobuchar, Markey, Booker, and Udall.

*Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard:* Senators Rubio (Chair), Wicker, Ayotte, Cruz, Sullivan, Johnson, Peters, Cantwell, Blumenthal, Markey, and Schatz.

*Subcommittee on Space, Science, and Competitiveness:* Senators Cruz (Chair), Rubio, Moran, Sullivan, Gardner, Daines, Udall, Markey, Booker, Peters, and Schatz.

*Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security:* Senators Fischer (Chair), Wicker, Blunt, Ayotte, Moran, Sullivan, Johnson, Heller, Daines, Booker, Cantwell, McCaskill, Klobuchar, Blumenthal, Schatz, Markey, and Udall.

*Senators Thune and Nelson are ex officio members of all subcommittees.*

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* Committee adopted its rules of procedure for the 114th Congress.

Also, Committee announced the following subcommittee assignments:

*Subcommittee on Energy:* Senators Risch (Chair), Flake, Daines, Cassidy, Gardner, Hoeven, Alexander, Portman, Capito, Manchin, Sanders, Stabenow, Franken, Heinrich, Hirono, King, and Warren.

*Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining:* Senators Barrasso (Chair), Capito, Risch, Lee, Daines, Cassidy, Gardner, Hoeven, Flake, Alexander, Wyden, Stabenow, Franken, Manchin, Heinrich, Hirono, and Warren.

*Subcommittee on National Parks:* Senators Cassidy (Chair), Portman, Barrasso, Alexander, Lee, Hoeven, Capito, Heinrich, Wyden, Sanders, Stabenow, King, and Warren.

*Subcommittee on Water and Power:* Senators Lee (Chair), Flake, Barrasso, Risch, Daines, Gardner, Portman, Hirono, Wyden, Sanders, Franken, Manchin, and King.

*Senators Murkowski and Cantwell are ex officio members of all subcommittees.*

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY BUDGET

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Energy, after receiving testimony from Ernest Moniz, Secretary of Energy.

## BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Daniel Henry Marti, of Virginia, to be Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, Executive Office of the President.

## BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Rules and Administration:* Committee ordered favorably reported an original resolution (S. Res. 73) authorizing the expenditures by committees of the Senate for March 1, 2015 through February 28, 2017.

## INTELLIGENCE

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

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# House of Representatives

## Chamber Action

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 55 public bills, H.R. 907–961; and 4 resolutions, H.J. Res. 32; and H. Res. 108–110, were introduced.

**Pages H1032–35**

**Additional Cosponsors:**

**Pages H1037–38**

**Reports Filed:** There were no reports filed today.

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Jenkins (WV) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

**Page H985**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 10:33 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon.

**Page H989**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 1:32 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m.

**Page H1000**

**Fighting Hunger Incentive Act of 2015:** The House passed H.R. 644, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend and expand the charitable deduction for contributions of food inventory, by a ye-a-and-nay vote of 279 yeas to 137 nays, Roll No. 80.

**Pages H1001–17**

Rejected the Neal motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Ways and Means with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a ye-a-and-nay vote of 168 yeas to 245 nays, Roll No. 79.

**Pages H1014–16**

Pursuant to the rule, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114–5 shall be considered as adopted.

**Page H1002**

H. Res. 101, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 644) and (H.R. 636), was agreed to by a recorded vote of 233 yeas to 163 nays, Roll

No. 78, after the previous question was ordered by a ye-a-and-nay vote of 232 yeas to 164 nays, Roll No. 77.

**Pages H993–1001**

**Senate Messages:** Messages received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on pages H993 and H1001.

**Senate Referrals:** S. 295 was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**Page H1031**

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Three ye-a-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1000, H1001, H1016, and H1016–17. There were no quorum calls.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

## Committee Meetings

## BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Agriculture:* Full Committee held a business meeting to consider the Budget Views and Estimates Letter of the Committee on Agriculture for the agencies and programs under jurisdiction of the Committee for FY 2016 and other organizational matters. The committee's views and estimates were adopted. The committee also amended its rules package.

## REVIEW OF THE 2015 AGENDA FOR THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

*Committee on Agriculture:* Full Committee held a hearing to review the 2015 Agenda for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. Testimony was heard from Timothy Massad, Chairman, Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

**APPROPRIATIONS—BUREAU OF RECLAMATION**

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development held a hearing on the Bureau of Reclamation budget. Testimony was heard from Estevan R. Lopez, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation.

**UPDATE ON DETAINEE TRANSFERS FROM GTMO**

*Committee on Armed Services:* Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Update on Detainee Transfers from GTMO”. Testimony was heard from Paul Lewis, Special Envoy for the Closure of the Guantanamo Bay Detention Facility, Department of Defense; and Charles Trumbull, Acting Special Envoy for Guantanamo Closure, Department of State. A portion of the hearing was closed.

**HOW EMERGING TECHNOLOGY AFFECTS STUDENT PRIVACY**

*Committee on Education and the Workforce:* Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education held a hearing entitled “How Emerging Technology Affects Student Privacy”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES**

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 734, the “Federal Communications Commission Consolidated Reporting Act of 2015”; H.R. 639, the “Improving Regulatory Transparency for New Medical Therapies Act”; H.R. 471, the “Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act of 2015”; H.R. 647, the “Access to Life-Saving Trauma Care for All Americans Act”; H.R. 648, the “Trauma Systems and Regionalization of Emergency Care Reauthorization Act”; and H.R. 212, the “Drinking Water Protection Act”. The following bills were ordered reported, without amendment: H.R. 734, H.R. 471, H.R. 647, and H.R. 648. The following bills were ordered reported, as amended: H.R. 212 and H.R. 639.

**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

*Committee on Ethics:* Full Committee held an organizational meeting for the 114th Congress. The committee adopted its rules of procedure and oversight plan for the 114th Congress.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

*Committee on Financial Services:* Full Committee began a business meeting to adopt the committee’s views and estimates on the budget for fiscal year 2016.

**THE GROWING STRATEGIC THREAT OF ISIS**

*Committee on Foreign Affairs:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Growing Strategic Threat of ISIS”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**AZERBAIJAN: U.S. ENERGY, SECURITY, AND HUMAN RIGHTS INTERESTS**

*Committee on Foreign Affairs:* Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats held a hearing entitled “Azerbaijan: U.S. Energy, Security, and Human Rights Interests”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**THE SYRIAN HUMANITARIAN CRISIS: FOUR YEARS LATER AND NO END IN SIGHT**

*Committee on Foreign Affairs:* Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa; Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, held a joint hearing entitled “The Syrian Humanitarian Crisis: Four Years Later and No End in Sight”. Testimony was heard from Kelly Tallman Clements, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, Department of State; and Thomas Staal, Acting Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance, U.S. Agency for International Development.

**EMERGING THREATS AND TECHNOLOGIES TO PROTECT THE HOMELAND**

*Committee on Homeland Security:* Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies held a hearing entitled “Emerging Threats and Technologies to Protect the Homeland”. Testimony was heard from the following Department of Homeland Security officials: Andy Ozment, Assistant Secretary, Office of Cybersecurity and Communications, National Protection and Programs Directorate; Huban Gowadia, Director, Domestic Nuclear Detection Office; Joseph Martin, Acting Director, Homeland Security Enterprise and First Responders Group, Science and Technology Directorate; and William Noonan, Deputy Special Agent in Charge, Criminal Investigative Division, Secret Service; and William Painter, Government and Finance Division, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Full Committee held a business meeting to adopt the committee’s oversight plan for the 114th Congress. The committee adopted its oversight plan.

**CONSUMERS SHORTCHANGED? OVERSIGHT OF THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT'S MORTGAGE LENDING SETTLEMENTS**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law held a hearing entitled “Consumers Shortchanged? Oversight of the Justice Department’s Mortgage Lending Settlements”. Testimony was heard from Geoffrey Graber, Deputy Associate Attorney General and Director, Residential Mortgage-Backed Securities Working Group of the Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force, Department of Justice; and public witnesses.

**EXAMINING RECENT SUPREME COURT CASES IN THE PATENT ARENA**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet held a hearing entitled “Examining Recent Supreme Court Cases in the Patent Arena”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**U.S. SECRET SERVICE: IDENTIFYING STEPS TO RESTORE THE PROTECTIVE AGENCY**

*Committee on Oversight and Government Reform:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “U.S. Secret Service: Identifying Steps to Restore the Protective Agency”. Testimony was heard from Thomas J. Perrelli, Secret Service Protective Mission Panel; Mark Filip, Secret Service Protective Mission Panel; Danielle C. Gray, Secret Service Protective Mission Panel; and Joseph W. Hagin, Secret Service Protective Mission Panel.

**THE PRESIDENT’S EXECUTIVE ACTIONS ON IMMIGRATION AND THEIR IMPACT ON FEDERAL AND STATE ELECTIONS**

*Committee on Oversight and Government Reform:* Subcommittee on National Security; and Subcommittee on Health Care, Benefits and Administrative Rules, held a joint hearing entitled, “The President’s Executive Actions on Immigration and Their Impact on Federal and State Elections”. Testimony was heard from Kris W. Kobach, Kansas Secretary of State; Jon A. Husted, Ohio Secretary of State; Matthew Dunlap, Maine Secretary of State; and a public witness.

**BRIDGING THE GAP: AMERICA’S WEATHER SATELLITES AND WEATHER FORECASTING**

*Committee on Science, Space, and Technology:* Subcommittee on Environment; and Subcommittee on Oversight, held a joint hearing entitled “Bridging the Gap: America’s Weather Satellites and Weather Forecasting”. Testimony was heard from David Powner, Director, Information Technology Management Issues, Government Accountability Office; Ste-

phen Volz, Assistant Administrator, National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Services, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Steven Clarke, Director, Joint Agency Satellite Division, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; Alexander MacDonald, Director, Earth System Research Laboratory, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Chief Science Advisor, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and John Murphy, Director, Office of Science and Technology, National Weather Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

**CAN AMERICANS TRUST THE PRIVACY AND SECURITY OF THEIR INFORMATION ON HEALTHCARE.GOV?**

*Committee on Science, Space, and Technology:* Subcommittee on Research and Technology; and Subcommittee on Oversight, held a joint hearing entitled “Can Americans Trust the Privacy and Security of their Information on HealthCare.gov?”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING; CONTRACTING AND THE INDUSTRIAL BASE**

*Committee on Small Business:* Full Committee held an organizational meeting for the 114th Congress and a hearing entitled “Contracting and the Industrial Base”. The committee adopted its rules and procedures, oversight plan, and views and estimates. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES**

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:* Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 749, the “Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015”; the committee’s Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Views and Estimates; General Services Administration Capital Investment and Leasing Program Resolutions. The committee’s views and estimates and General Services Administration Capital Investment and Leasing Program Resolutions were approved. H.R. 749 was ordered reported, without amendment.

**MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES**

*Committee on Veterans’ Affairs:* Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 280, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to recoup bonuses and awards paid to employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs; H.R. 294, the “Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act”; H.R. 216, the “Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Planning Reform Act of 2015”; and H.R. 189, the “Servicemember Foreclosure Protections Extension Act of 2015”. The following bills were ordered reported, as amended: H.R. 280, H.R.

294, and H.R. 216. The following bill was ordered reported, without amendment: H.R. 189.

#### A REVIEW OF THE PRESIDENT'S FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGET REQUEST FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'S VETERAN EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERVICE

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing entitled "A Review of the President's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Request for the Department of Labor's Veteran Employment and Training Service". Testimony was heard from Teresa W. Gerton, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Veterans' Employment and Training Service, Department of Labor; and public witnesses.

#### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

*Committee on Ways and Means:* Full Committee held a markup on the committee's Views and Estimates on the Fiscal Year 2016 Federal Budget; H.R. 529, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve 529 plans; H.R. 622, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the deduction of State and local general sales taxes; and H.R. 880, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify and make permanent the research credit. The committee's views and estimates were ordered reported. The following bills were ordered reported, as amended: H.R. 529, H.R. 622, and H.R. 880.

#### BUSINESS MEETING

*Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:* Full Committee held a business meeting to consider member access requests and views and estimates. Eight access

requests were granted, and the committee adopted its views and estimates. This meeting was closed.

### *Joint Meetings*

No joint committee meetings were held.

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#### COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2015

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

##### Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

##### House

*Committee on Appropriations,* Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, hearing on the Department of Agriculture, Office of the Inspector General budget, 10 a.m., 2362—A Rayburn.

*Committee on Armed Services,* Full Committee, hearing entitled "What Is the State of Islamic Extremism: Key Trends, Challenges, and Implications for U.S. Policy", 9 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

*Committee on Financial Services,* Full Committee, meeting to adopt the committee's views and estimates on the budget for fiscal year 2016, 9:20 a.m., HVC-210.

*Committee on the Judiciary,* Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice, hearing entitled "Oversight of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act and the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act", 9:30 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

*Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,* Subcommittee on Transportation and Public Assets; Subcommittee on Government Operations, joint hearing entitled "D.C. Metro: Is There a Safety Gap?", 9 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

4:45 p.m., Monday, February 16

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

9 a.m., Friday, February 13

## Senate Chamber

**Program for Monday:** Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

## House Chamber

**Program for Friday:** Consideration of H.R. 636—America's Small Business Tax Relief Act of 2015 (Subject to a Rule).

## Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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