

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S7949–S7978

Measures Introduced: Six bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2217–2222, and S. Res. 357–358. **Pages S7974–75**

Measures Passed:

Justice for Uncompensated Survivors Today (JUST) Act: Senate passed S. 447, to require reporting on acts of certain foreign countries on Holocaust era assets and related issues, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S7950**

International education and exchange programs: Senate agreed to S. Res. 357, expressing the sense of the Senate that international education and exchange programs further United States national security and foreign policy priorities, enhance United States economic competitiveness, and promote mutual understanding and cooperation among nations. **Page S7978**

National Phenylketonuria Awareness Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 358, designating December 3, 2017, as “National Phenylketonuria Awareness Day”. **Page S7978**

Willett Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Don R. Willett, of Texas, to be a Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, post-cloture. **Pages S7965–72**

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

By 50 yeas to 48 nays (Vote No. 314), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S7965**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 12 noon, on Wednesday, December 13, 2017; and that all time during recess, adjournment, morning business, and Leader remarks count post-cloture on the nomination. **Page S7978**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 50 yeas to 48 nays (Vote No. EX. 313), Leonard Steven Grasz, of Nebraska, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit. **Pages S7950–58, S7958–65, S7978**

Mary Kirtley Waters, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs). **Pages S7972, S7978**

Messages from the House: **Page S7974**

Measures Referred: **Page S7974**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S7974**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S7975–76**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S7976–77**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S7977–78**

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—314) **Page S7965**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:03 p.m., until 12 noon on Wednesday, December 13, 2017. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S7978.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

MACHINE LEARNING AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet concluded a hearing to examine digital decision-making, focusing on the building blocks of machine learning and artificial intelligence, after receiving testimony from Cindy L. Bethel, Mississippi State University, Starkville; Daniel Castro, Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, Victoria Espinel, BSA, The Software Alliance, and Dario Gil, AI and IBM Q, all of Washington, D.C.; and Edward W. Felten, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey.

NATIONAL OCEAN POLICY

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard concluded a hearing to examine national ocean policy, focusing on stakeholder perspectives, after receiving testimony from Bonnie Brady, Long Island Commercial Fishing Association, Montauk, New York; Christopher Guith, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Global Energy Institute, and Kathy Metcalf, Chamber of Shipping of America, both of Washington, D.C.; and Dan Keppen, Family Farm Alliance, Klamath Falls, Oregon.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Linda Capuano, of Texas, to be Administrator of the Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, and Timothy R. Petty, of Indiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

**ENERGY AND RESOURCE
INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS**

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the permitting processes at the Department of the Interior and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for energy and resource infrastructure projects and opportunities to improve the efficiency, transparency, and accountability of federal decisions for such projects, after receiving testimony from James Cason, Associate Deputy Secretary of the Interior; Janet Pfleeger, Acting Executive Director, Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council; Terry L. Turpin, Director, Office of Energy Projects, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; Chad Brown, Washington Department of Ecology Water Quality Unit Supervisor, Olympia; Roxane Perruso, The Anschutz Corporation, Denver, Colorado; and Luke Russell, Hecla Mining Company, Hayden, Idaho.

EUROPEAN ENERGY SECURITY

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on Europe and Regional Security Cooperation concluded a hearing to examine European energy security, focusing on United States interests and coercive Russian diplomacy, after receiving testimony from A. Wess Mitchell, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, and John E. McCarrick, Deputy

Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Energy Resources, both of the Department of State.

THE FUTURE OF ZIMBABWE

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy concluded a hearing to examine the future of Zimbabwe, after receiving testimony from Stephanie Sullivan, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Africa; Tendai Biti, MDC Alliance, Harare, Zimbabwe; Dewa Mavhinga, Human Rights Watch, Johannesburg, South Africa; and Peter Godwin, New York, New York.

THE COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the cost of prescription drugs, focusing on an examination of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine report “Making Medicines Affordable: A National Imperative”, after receiving testimony from Norman R. Augustine, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, and Douglas Holtz-Eakin, American Action Forum, both of Washington, D.C.; and David E. Mitchell, Patients For Affordable Drugs, Bethesda, Maryland.

**ENSURING PATIENT ACCESS AND
EFFECTIVE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ACT
OVERSIGHT**

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act, after receiving testimony from Demetra Ashley, Acting Assistant Administrator, Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice; Brian E. Frosh, Attorney General of Maryland, Baltimore; Jan Favero Chambers, National Fibromyalgia and Chronic Pain Association, Logan, Utah; Carmen Catizone, National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, Mount Prospect, Illinois; and John M. Gray, Healthcare Distribution Alliance, Arlington, Virginia.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 18 public bills, H.R. 4616–4633; 1 private bill, H.R. 4634; and 6 resolutions, H. Res. 656–661, were introduced. **Page H9844–45**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H9846**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 2872, to amend the Federal Power Act to promote hydropower development at existing non-powered dams, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–461, Part 1);

H. Res. 657, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2396) to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to update the exception for certain annual notices provided by financial institutions, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4015) to improve the quality of proxy advisory firms for the protection of investors and the U.S. economy, and in the public interest, by fostering accountability, transparency, responsiveness, and competition in the proxy advisory firm industry (H. Rept. 115–462); and

H. Res. 658, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1638) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees on the estimated total assets under direct or indirect control by certain senior Iranian leaders and other figures, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4324) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to make certifications with respect to United States and foreign financial institutions' aircraft-related transactions involving Iran, and, for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–463). **Page H9844**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Marshall to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H9791**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:53 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H9797**

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

Directing the Secretary of Energy to review and update a report on the energy and environmental benefits of the re-refining of used lubricating oil: H.R. 1733, to direct the Secretary of Energy to review and update a report on the energy and environmental benefits of the re-refining of used lubricating oil; **Pages H9808–09**

Promoting Hydropower Development at Existing Nonpowered Dams Act: H.R. 2872, amended, to

amend the Federal Power Act to promote hydropower development at existing nonpowered dams;

Pages H9809–12

Promoting Closed-Loop Pumped Storage Hydropower Act: H.R. 2880, amended, to amend the Federal Power Act to promote closed-loop pumped storage hydropower; **Pages H9812–14**

Amending title 5, United States Code, to extend the authority to conduct telework travel expenses test programs: H.R. 4171, amended, to amend title 5, United States Code, to extend the authority to conduct telework travel expenses test programs;

Pages H9814–15

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9155 Schaefer Road, Converse, Texas, as the “Converse Veterans Post Office Building”: H.R. 1208, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9155 Schaefer Road, Converse, Texas, as the “Converse Veterans Post Office Building”;

Pages H9815–16

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1100 Kings Road in Jacksonville, Florida, as the “Rutledge Pearson Post Office Building”: H.R. 3638, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1100 Kings Road in Jacksonville, Florida, as the “Rutledge Pearson Post Office Building”;

Pages H9818

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1300 Main Street in Belmar, New Jersey, as the “Dr. Walter S. McAfee Post Office Building”: H.R. 3655, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1300 Main Street in Belmar, New Jersey, as the “Dr. Walter S. McAfee Post Office Building”;

Pages H9819–20

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 Bridgeton Pike in Mullica Hill, New Jersey, as the “James C. ‘Billy’ Johnson Post Office Building”: H.R. 4285, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 Bridgeton Pike in Mullica Hill, New Jersey, as the “James C. ‘Billy’ Johnson Post Office Building”;

Pages H9820–21

Condemning the persecution of Christians around the world: H. Res. 407, amended, condemning the persecution of Christians around the world;

Pages H9821–24

Reaffirming a strong commitment to the United States-Mexico partnership: H. Res. 336, reaffirming

a strong commitment to the United States-Mexico partnership; and **Pages H9824–26**

Reaffirming the strategic partnership between the United States and Canada, recognizing bilateral cooperation that advances United States national interests, and urging increased bilateral cooperation on security, economic issues, and energy: H. Res. 357, amended, reaffirming the strategic partnership between the United States and Canada, recognizing bilateral cooperation that advances United States national interests, and urging increased bilateral cooperation on security, economic issues, and energy. **Page H9826–28**

United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission—Reappointment: Read a letter from Representative Pelosi, Minority Leader, in which she reappointed the following individuals to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission, effective January 1, 2018: Ms. Carolyn Bartholomew of Washington, D.C. and Mr. Michael R. Wessel of Falls Church, Virginia. **Page H9828**

Recess: The House recessed at 4:08 p.m. and reconvened at 4:34 p.m. **Page H9828**

Community Institution Mortgage Relief Act of 2017: The House passed H.R. 3971, to amend the Truth in Lending Act and the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 to modify the requirements for community financial institutions with respect to certain rules relating to mortgage loans, by a yea-and-nay vote of 294 yeas to 129 nays, Roll No. 675. **Pages H9799–H9808, H9829–30**

Rejected the Titus motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Financial Services with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a yea-and-nay vote of 190 yeas to 233 nays, Roll No. 674. **Pages H9807–08, H9828–29**

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 115–44 shall be considered as adopted. **Page H9799**

Agreed to:

Sherman amendment (No. 1 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–443) that lowers the amount of consolidated assets of a creditor eligible for the safe harbor from escrow requirements in the bill from \$25,000,000,000 or less to \$10,000,000,000 or less; lowers the number of loans that a mortgage servicer eligible for exemptions and adjustments from the Bureau can service annually from 30,000 or fewer mortgage loans to 20,000 or fewer mortgage loans. **Page H9806**

H. Res. 647, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 477) and (H.R. 3971) and the

joint resolution (H.J. Res. 123) was agreed to Thursday, December 7th.

Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 30 East Somerset Street in Raritan, New Jersey, as the “Sergeant John Basilone Post Office”: H.R. 2815, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 30 East Somerset Street in Raritan, New Jersey, as the “Sergeant John Basilone Post Office”; and **Pages H9816–18**

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1415 West Oak Street, in Kissimmee, Florida, as the “Borinqueneers Post Office Building”: H.R. 4042, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1415 West Oak Street, in Kissimmee, Florida, as the “Borinqueneers Post Office Building”. **Pages H9818–19**

Senate Referral: S. 447 was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs. **Page H9843**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H9799.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H9828–29 and H9829–30. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Full Committee began a markup on H.R. 4508, the “Promoting Real Opportunity, Success, and Prosperity through Education Reform Act”.

UPDATE ON THE CORPORATE AVERAGE FUEL ECONOMY PROGRAM (CAFE) AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS STANDARDS FOR MOTOR VEHICLES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Environment; and Subcommittee on Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection held a joint hearing entitled “Update on the Corporate Average Fuel Economy Program (CAFE) and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards for Motor Vehicles”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EXAMINING CONCERNS OF PATIENT BROKERING AND ADDICTION TREATMENT FRAUD

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Examining Concerns of Patient Brokering and Addiction Treatment Fraud”. Testimony was heard from Dave Aronberg, State Attorney, 15th Judicial Circuit, Florida; Eric M. Gold, Assistant Attorney General and Chief, Health Care Division, Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General; Alan S. Johnson, Chief Assistant State Attorney, 15th Judicial Circuit, Florida; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee began a markup on H.R. 435, the “Credit Access and Inclusion Act of 2017”; H.R. 1457, the “Making Online Banking Initiation Legal and Easy Act of 2017”; H.R. 2219, the “End Banking for Human Traffickers Act of 2017”; H.R. 2319, the “Consumer Financial Choice and Capital Markets Protection Act of 2017”; H.R. 2948, to amend the S.A.F.E. Mortgage Licensing Act of 2008 to provide a temporary license for loan originators transitioning between employers, and for other purposes; H.R. 3179, the “Transparency and Accountability for Business Standards Act”; H.R. 3864, the “Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Reauthorization Act of 2017”; H.R. 4464, the “Common Sense Credit Union Capital Relief Act of 2017”; H.R. 4519, to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to repeal certain disclosure requirements related to resource extraction, and for other purposes; H.R. 4529, the “Accelerating Access to Capital Act of 2017”; H.R. 4537, the “International Insurance Standards Act of 2017”; H.R. 4545, the “Financial Institutions Examination Fairness and Reform Act”; H.R. 4546, the “National Securities Exchange Regulatory Parity Act”; H.R. 4560, the “GSE Jumpstart Reauthorization Act of 2017”; and H.R. 4566, the “Alleviating Stress Test Burdens to Help Investors Act”.

PROTECTING NORTH KOREAN REFUGEES

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations held a hearing entitled “Protecting North Korean Refugees”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE FUTURE OF THE NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade held a hearing entitled “The Future of the North American Free

Trade Agreement”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

CAMBODIA’S DESCENT: POLICIES TO SUPPORT DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific held a hearing entitled “Cambodia’s Descent: Policies to Support Democracy and Human Rights”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 1865, the “Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act of 2017”; and H.R. 2595, the “Strengthening the Department of Homeland Security Secure Mail Initiative Act”. H.R. 1865 was ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 2595 was ordered reported, without amendment.

EXAMINING CONSEQUENCES OF AMERICA’S GROWING DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN MINERALS

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing entitled “Examining Consequences of America’s Growing Dependence on Foreign Minerals”. Testimony was heard from Ronnie Favors, Administrator, Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials, Department of Defense; Murray Hitzman, Associate Director for Energy and Minerals, U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee began a markup on H.R. 200, the “Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act”; H.R. 1157, to clarify the United States interest in certain submerged lands in the area of the Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge, and for other purposes; H.R. 1349, to amend the Wilderness Act to ensure that the use of bicycles, wheelchairs, strollers, and game carts is not prohibited in Wilderness Areas, and for other purposes; H.R. 1350, to modify the boundary of Voyageurs National Park in the State of Minnesota, and for other purposes; H.R. 1675, the “National Landslide Preparedness Act”; H.R. 2888, the “Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park Establishment Act”; H.R. 3400, the “Recreation Not Red-Tape Act”; H.R. 3588, the “RED SNAPPER Act”; H.R. 4033, the “National Geologic Mapping Act Reauthorization Act”; H.R. 4264, the “Hyde Park Land Conveyance Act”; H.R. 4266, the “Acadia National Park Boundary Clarification Act”;

H.R. 4465, the “Endangered Fish Recovery Programs Extension Act of 2017”; H.R. 4475, the “National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System Act”; H.R. 4568, the “Enhancing Geothermal Production on Federal Lands Act”; S. 825, the “Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium Land Transfer Act of 2017”; and S. 1285, the “Oregon Tribal Economic Development Act”.

**IRANIAN LEADERSHIP ASSET
TRANSPARENCY ACT; PRIVACY
NOTIFICATION TECHNICAL
CLARIFICATION ACT; CORPORATE
GOVERNANCE REFORM AND
TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2017;
STRENGTHENING OVERSIGHT OF IRAN'S
ACCESS TO FINANCE ACT**

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 1638, the “Iranian Leadership Asset Transparency Act”; H.R. 2396, the “Privacy Notification Technical Clarification Act”; H.R. 4015, the “Corporate Governance Reform and Transparency Act of 2017”; and H.R. 4324, the “Strengthening Oversight of Iran’s Access to Finance Act”. The Committee granted, by record vote of 8–4, a structured rule for H.R. 1638. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule makes in order as original text for the purpose of amendment an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 115–47 and provides that it shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute. The rule makes in order only those further amendments printed in part A of the Rules Committee report. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendment printed in part A of the report. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. In section 2, the rule provides for consideration of H.R. 4324 under a structured rule. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that an amendment in the na-

ture of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 115–48 shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute. The rule makes in order only the further amendment printed in part B of the Rules Committee report, if offered by the Member designated in the report, which shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendment printed in part B of the report. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. The Committee granted, by record vote of 8–4, a structured rule for H.R. 2396. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule makes in order only the further amendment printed in the Rules Committee report, if offered by the Member designated in the report, which shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendment printed in the report. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. In section 2, the rule provides for consideration of H.R. 4015 under a closed rule. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 115–46 shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Testimony was heard from Representatives Barr and Heck of Washington.

THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC IN APPALACHIA: ADDRESSING HURDLES TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management held a hearing entitled “The Opioid Epidemic in Appalachia: Addressing Hurdles to Economic Development in the Region”. Testimony was heard from Representative Rogers of Kentucky; Earl Gohl, Federal Co-Chair, Appalachian Regional Commission; and public witnesses.

AN UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FOREVER GI BILL, THE HARRY W. COLMERY EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2017

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing entitled “An Update on the Implementation of the Forever GI Bill, the Harry W. Colmery Educational Assistance Act of 2017”. Testimony was heard from Major General Robert M. Worley II, U.S. Air Force (Ret.), Director, Education Service, Veterans Benefit Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2017

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: to hold hearings to examine safeguarding American agriculture in a globalized world, 9:30 a.m., SR-328A.

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, to receive a closed briefing on Department of Defense global counterterrorism operations, 10 a.m., SVC-217.

Subcommittee on Personnel, to hold hearings to examine an update on research, diagnosis, and treatment for traumatic brain injury/concussion in servicemembers, 10 a.m., SR-222.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: business meeting to consider S. 2202, to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the National Transportation Safety Board, S. 2200, to reauthorize the National Integrated Drought Information System, S. 1768, to reauthorize and amend the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, the nomination of Barry Lee Myers, of Pennsylvania, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, and a routine list in the Coast Guard, 10 a.m., SH-216.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: business meeting to consider the nomination of R. D. James, of Missouri, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army, Department of Defense, 9:50 a.m., SD-406.

Full Committee, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 10 a.m., SD-406.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine using force, focusing on strategic, political, and legal considerations, 9:30 a.m., SD-419.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the extradition Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, signed at Pristina on March 29, 2016 (Treaty Doc.115-02), the extradition Treaty between the United States of America and the Republic of Serbia, signed at Belgrade on August 15, 2016 (Treaty Doc.115-01), the Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Kiribati on the Delimitation of Maritime Boundaries, signed at Majuro on September 6, 2013, and the Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia on the Delimitation of a Maritime Boundary, signed at Koror on August 1, 2014 (Treaty Doc.114-13), and the United Nations Convention on the Assignment of Receivables in International Trade, done at New York on December 12, 2001, and signed by the United States on December 30, 2003 (Treaty Doc.114-07), 2:30 p.m., SD-419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: business meeting to consider the nominations of Johnny Collett, of Kentucky, to be Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Mitchell Zais, of South Carolina, to be Deputy Secretary, and James Blew, of California, to be Assistant Secretary for Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development, all of the Department of Education, William Beach, of Kansas, to be Commissioner of Labor Statistics, Kate S. O'Scannlain, of Maryland, to be Solicitor, and Scott A. Mugno, of Pennsylvania, and Preston Rutledge, of the District of Columbia, both to be an Assistant Secretary, all of the Department of Labor, and other pending nominations, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine implementation of the 21st Century Cures Act, focusing on responding to mental health needs, 10 a.m., SD-430.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Elizabeth L. Branch, of Georgia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, R. Stan Baker, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Georgia, Charles Barnes Goodwin, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma, Matthew J. Kacsmayk, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas, Matthew Spencer Petersen, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, and Eli Jeremy Richardson, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee, 10 a.m., SD-226.

Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights, to hold hearings to examine the consumer welfare standard in antitrust, 2:30 p.m., SD-226.

House

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces, hearing entitled “Addressing Physiological Episodes in Fighter, Attack, and Training Aircraft”, 3:30 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, Full Committee, continue markup on H.R. 4508, the “Promoting Real Opportunity, Success, and Prosperity through Education Reform Act”, 2175 Rayburn. Time to be announced.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Examining the Drug Supply Chain”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled “The Impacts and Future of North American Energy Trade”, 10:15 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, continue markup on H.R. 435, the “Credit Access and Inclusion Act of 2017”; H.R. 1457, the “Making Online Banking Initiation Legal and Easy Act of 2017”; H.R. 2219, the “End Banking for Human Traffickers Act of 2017”; H.R. 2319, the “Consumer Financial Choice and Capital Markets Protection Act of 2017”; H.R. 2948, to amend the S.A.F.E. Mortgage Licensing Act of 2008 to provide a temporary license for loan originators transitioning between employers, and for other purposes; H.R. 3179, the “Transparency and Accountability for Business Standards Act”; H.R. 3864, the “Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Reauthorization Act of 2017”; H.R. 4464, the “Common Sense Credit Union Capital Relief Act of 2017”; H.R. 4519, to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to repeal certain disclosure requirements related to resource extraction, and for other purposes; H.R. 4529, the “Accelerating Access to Capital Act of 2017”; H.R. 4537, the “International Insurance Standards Act of 2017”; H.R. 4545, the “Financial Institutions Examination Fairness and Reform Act”; H.R. 4546, the “National Securities Exchange Regulatory Parity Act”; H.R. 4560, the “GSE Jumpstart Reauthorization Act of 2017”; and H.R. 4566, the “Alleviating Stress Test Burdens to Help Investors Act”, 9 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1486, the “Securing American Non-Profit Organizations Against Terrorism Act of 2017”; H.R. 4433, the “Securing Department of Homeland Security Firearms Act of 2017”; H.R. 4553, the “Terrorist Screening and Targeting Review Act of 2017”; H.R. 4555, the “DHS Interagency Counterterrorism Task Force Act of 2017”; H.R. 4559, the “Global Aviation System Security Reform Act of 2017”; H.R. 4561, the “Security Assessment Feasibility for Equipment Testing and Evaluation of Capabilities for our Homeland Act”; H.R. 4564, the “Post-Caliphate Threat Assessment Act of 2017”; H.R. 4567, the “DHS Overseas Personnel Enhancement Act of 2017”; H.R. 4569, the “Counterterrorism Information Sharing Improvement Act of 2017”; H.R. 4577, the “Domestic Explosives Detection Canine Capacity Building Act of 2017”; H.R. 4578, the “Counter Terrorist Network Act”; and H.R. 4581, the “Screening and Vet-

ting Passenger Exchange Act of 2017”, 9:30 a.m., HVC-210.

Committee on House Administration, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 4009, to authorize the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution to plan, design, and construct a central parking facility on National Zoological Park property in the District of Columbia; and a committee resolution updating the advertisement regulations found in the Members’ Congressional Handbook, 11:30 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Oversight Hearing with Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee, continue markup on H.R. 200, the “Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act”; H.R. 1157, to clarify the United States interest in certain submerged lands in the area of the Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge, and for other purposes; H.R. 1349, to amend the Wilderness Act to ensure that the use of bicycles, wheelchairs, strollers, and game carts is not prohibited in Wilderness Areas, and for other purposes; H.R. 1350, to modify the boundary of Voyageurs National Park in the State of Minnesota, and for other purposes; H.R. 1675, the “National Landslide Preparedness Act”; H.R. 2888, the “Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park Establishment Act”; H.R. 3400, the “Recreation Not Red-Tape Act”; H.R. 3588, the “RED SNAPPER Act”; H.R. 4033, the “National Geologic Mapping Act Reauthorization Act”; H.R. 4264, the “Hyde Park Land Conveyance Act”; H.R. 4266, the “Acadia National Park Boundary Clarification Act”; H.R. 4465, the “Endangered Fish Recovery Programs Extension Act of 2017”; H.R. 4475, the “National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System Act”; H.R. 4568, the “Enhancing Geothermal Production on Federal Lands Act”; S. 825, the “Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium Land Transfer Act of 2017”; and S. 1285, the “Oregon Tribal Economic Development Act”, 12:30 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Full Committee, hearing entitled, “Oversight of the Bureau of Prisons and Inmate Reentry”, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Research and Technology, hearing entitled “Head Health Challenge: Preventing Head Trauma from Football Field to Shop Floor to Battlefield”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled “Advancing Solar Energy Technology: Research Trumps Deployment”, 2 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, hearing entitled “Pre-Discharge Claims Programs: Are VA and DOD Effectively Serving Separating Military Personnel?”, 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Oversight, hearing entitled “IRS Reform: The Taxpayer’s Experience”, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Joint Meetings

Senate Committee on Finance, meeting of conferees on H.R. 1, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to titles II

and V of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018, 2 p.m., HC-5, Capitol

Next Meeting of the SENATE

12 noon, Wednesday, December 13

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, December 13

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Don R. Willett, of Texas, to be a Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, post-cloture.

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of H.R. 1638—Iranian Leadership Asset Transparency Act (Subject to a Rule) and H.R. 4324—Strengthening Oversight of Iran's Access to Finance Act (Subject to a Rule). The House is also expected to begin consideration of H.R. 2396—Privacy Notification Technical Clarification Act (Subject to a Rule) and H.R. 4015—Corporate Governance Reform and Transparency Act of 2017 (Subject to a Rule).

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Cohen, Steve, Tenn., E1689
Comer, James, Ky., E1685
Fitzpatrick, Brian K., Pa., E1686
Garamendi, John, Calif., E1688
Gutiérrez, Luis V., Ill., E1686
Jackson Lee, Sheila, Tex., E1689

Jones, Walter B., N.C., E1686
Larson, John B., Conn., E1689
Norton, Eleanor Holmes, The District of Columbia, E1687
Poe, Ted, Tex., E1687
Raskin, Jamie, Md., E1685, E1689
Renacci, James B., Ohio, E1686
Ryan, Tim, Ohio, E1688

Schakowsky, Janice D., Ill., E1689
Sewell, Terri A., Ala., E1686
Smith, Jason, Mo., E1685
Swalwell, Eric, Calif., E1688
Tipton, Scott R., Colo., E1686, E1687
Vela, Filemon, Tex., E1686
Wittman, Robert J., Va., E1688



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