

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S833–S872

Measures Introduced: Thirty-nine bills and five resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 400–438, and S. Res. 71–75. **Pages S856–58**

Measures Passed:

Committee expenditures: Senate agreed to S. Res. 70, authorizing expenditures by committees of the Senate for the periods March 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021, October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022, and October 1, 2022 through February 28, 2023. **Page S868**

Senate Shared Employee Act: Senate passed S. 422, to allow Senators, Senators-elect, committees of the Senate, leadership offices, and other offices of the Senate to share employees. **Pages S868–69**

Rare Disease Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 74, designating February 28, 2021, as “Rare Disease Day”. **Page S869**

Black History Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 75, celebrating Black History Month. **Page S869**

Messages from the President: Senate received the following messages from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Proclamation 6867 of March 1, 1996, with respect to the unauthorized entry of any United States-registered vessels into Cuban territorial waters; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (PM–2) **Page S855**

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Proclamation 9994 of March 13, 2020, with respect to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID–19) pandemic; which was referred to the Committee on Finance. (PM–3) **Page S855**

Granholm Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Jennifer Mulhern Granholm, of Michigan, to be Secretary of Energy. **Pages S833–843, S845–49**

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

By 67 yeas to 32 nays (Vote No. EX. 65), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S845**

A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at 12 noon, on Thursday, February 25, 2021; that there then be up to 10 minutes for debate equally divided in the usual form; that upon the use or yielding back of time, all post-cloture time be considered expired, and Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination; and that notwithstanding Rule XXII, the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Miguel A. Cardona, of Connecticut, to be Secretary of Education, occur at 1:30 p.m., on Thursday, February 25, 2021. **Page S869**

Raimando Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Gina Marie Raimando, of Rhode Island, to be Secretary of Commerce. **Page S843**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Miguel A. Cardona, of Connecticut, to be Secretary of Education. **Page S843**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S843**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S843**

Rouse Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Cecilia Elena Rouse, of New Jersey, to be Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors. **Pages S844–45**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Gina Marie Raimando, of Rhode Island, to be Secretary of Commerce. **Page S844**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Pages S843–44**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S844**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Kiran Arjandas Ahuja, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management for a term of four years.

14 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

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Messages from the House: **Page S855**

Measures Referred: **Page S855**

Executive Communications: **Page S856**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S856**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page S858**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:
Pages S858–68

Additional Statements: **Pages S853–55**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S866**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—65) **Page S845**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 12:01 p.m. and adjourned at 6:35 p.m., until 11 a.m. on Thursday, February 25, 2021. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S869.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Armed Services: On Tuesday, February 23, 2021, Committee ordered favorably reported 237 nominations in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Space Force.

NOMINATION

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Debra Anne Haaland, of New Mexico, to be Secretary of the Interior, after the nominee testified and answered questions in her own behalf.

INVESTING IN TRANSPORTATION

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine investing in transportation while addressing climate change, improving equity, and fostering economic growth and

innovation, after receiving testimony from Michigan Governor Gretchen E. Whitmer, Lansing; Maryland Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Annapolis; Mayor Michael B. Hancock, Denver, Colorado; and Victoria F. Sheehan, New Hampshire Department of Transportation Commissioner, Washington, D.C., on behalf of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.

NOMINATION

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Xavier Becerra, of California, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senators Feinstein and Padilla, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

NATIVE COMMUNITIES' PRIORITIES

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine native communities' priorities in focus for the 117th Congress, after receiving testimony from Carmen Lindsey, Board of Trustees Office of Hawaiian Affairs Chair, Honolulu, Hawaii; Fawn R. Sharp, National Congress of American Indians, Washington, D.C.; Leonard Forsman, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Portland, Oregon; and Julie Kitka, Alaska Federation of Natives, Anchorage.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Isabella Casillas Guzman, of California, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

VACCINES FOR VETS

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine vaccines for vets, focusing on ending the COVID-19 pandemic, after receiving testimony from Richard A. Stone, Acting Under Secretary for Health, Veterans Health Administration, Jane Kim, Chief Consultant for Preventive Medicine, Ralph T. Gigliotti, Network Director, Veterans Integrated Service Network 19: VA Rocky Mountain Network, and William P. Patterson, Network Director, Veterans Integrated Service Network 15: VA Heartland Network, all of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

NOMINATION

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee concluded open and closed hearings to examine the nomination of William Joseph Burns, of Maryland, to be Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, after the nominee testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 45 public bills, H.R. 1,274–1,318; and 10 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 18; and H. Res. 154–162, were introduced.

Pages H614–17

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H618–19

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H.R. 1319, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of S. Con. Res. 5 (H. Rept. 117–7).

Page H614

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

Page H591

Recess: The House recessed at 11:04 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon.

Page H598

Committee Election: The House agreed to H. Res. 154, electing a certain Member to a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives.

Pages H598–99

Motion to Adjourn: Rejected the Greene (GA) motion to adjourn by a yea-and-nay vote of 202 yeas to 214 nays, Roll No. 33.

Pages H601–02

Colorado Wilderness Act of 2021 and Equality Act—Rule for Consideration: The House agreed to H. Res. 147, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 803) to designate certain lands in the State of Colorado as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5) to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation, by a yea-and-nay vote of 218 yeas to 208 nays, Roll No. 35, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 219 yeas to 211 nays, Roll No. 34.

Pages H602–10

Moment of Silence: The House observed a moment of silence in memory of the late Honorable Ron Wright.

Page H609

Suspensions—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures. Consideration began Tuesday, February 23rd.

Effective Assistance of Counsel in the Digital Era Act: H.R. 546, to regulate monitoring of electronic communications between an incarcerated person in a Bureau of Prisons facility and that person's attorney or other legal representative, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 414 yeas to 11 nays, Roll No. 36; and

Pages H610–11

Puerto Rico Recovery Accuracy in Disclosures Act of 2021: H.R. 1192, to impose requirements on the payment of compensation to professional persons employed in voluntary cases commenced under title III of the Puerto Rico Oversight Management and Economic Stability Act (commonly known as "PROMESA"), by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 429 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 37.

Pages H611–12

Clerk to Correct Engrossment: Agreed by unanimous consent that in the engrossment of H.R. 447, the Clerk be directed to make the correction placed at the desk.

Page H612

Expressing the profound sorrow of the House of Representatives on the death of the Honorable Ronald J. Wright: The House agreed to H. Res. 155, expressing the profound sorrow of the House of Representatives on the death of the Honorable Ronald J. Wright.

Page H612

Presidential Messages: Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency with respect to Cuba that was declared on March 1, 1996, in Proclamation 6867, as amended by Proclamation 7757 on February 26, 2004, Proclamation 9398 on February 24, 2016, and Proclamation 9699 on February 22, 2018, is to continue in effect beyond March 1, 2021—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 117–17).

Page H612

Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency declared in Proclamation 9994 of March 13, 2020, beginning March 1, 2020, concerning the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19) outbreak is to continue in effect beyond March 1, 2021—referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 117–18).

Page H612

Quorum Calls—Votes: Five yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H601–02 and H608–12.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and at 6:25 p.m., pursuant to House Resolution 155, it stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow, February 25th, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Honorable Ronald J. Wright.

Committee Meetings

FUTURE DEFENSE SPENDING

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held a hearing entitled "Future Defense Spending".

Testimony was heard from Elizabeth Field, Director of Defense Capabilities and Management, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

APPROPRIATIONS—JUDICIARY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government held a budget hearing on the Judiciary. Testimony was heard from John W. Lungstrum, Chair, Committee on the Budget, Judicial Conference of the United States; and Roslynn R. Mauskopf, Director, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts.

READY OR NOT: U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “Ready or Not: U.S. Public Health Infrastructure”. Testimony was heard from Marilyn Bibbs-Freeman, Deputy Director, Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services, Office of the Secretary of Administration, Virginia; Jennifer Kertanis, Director of Health, Farmington Valley Health District, Connecticut; Umair Shah, M.D., Secretary of Health, Washington; and Kathryn Turner, Deputy State Epidemiologist and Chief, Bureau of Communicable Disease Prevention, Idaho Division of Public Health.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS OF EMPLOYEES AND STATE OF DAMAGE AND PRESERVATION AS A RESULT OF THE JANUARY 6 INSURRECTION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch held a hearing entitled “Health and Wellness of Employees and State of Damage and Preservation as a Result of the January 6 Insurrection”. Testimony was heard from Brett Blanton, Architect of the Capitol; Farar Elliott, Curator, U.S. House of Representatives; and Catherine Szpindor, Chief Administrative Officer, U.S. House of Representatives.

FANNING THE FLAMES: DISINFORMATION AND EXTREMISM IN THE MEDIA

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a hearing entitled “Fanning the Flames: Disinformation and Extremism in the Media”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MONETARY POLICY AND THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Monetary Policy and the State of the Economy”. Testimony was heard from Jerome H.

Powell, Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

HOW INVIDIOUS DISCRIMINATION WORKS AND HURTS: AN EXAMINATION OF LENDING DISCRIMINATION AND ITS LONG-TERM ECONOMIC IMPACTS ON BORROWERS OF COLOR

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “How Invidious Discrimination Works and Hurts: An Examination of Lending Discrimination and Its Long-term Economic Impacts on Borrowers of Color”. Testimony was heard from Cheryl Cooper, Analyst, Financial Economics Division, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress; and public witnesses.

AMERICA FORWARD: RESTORING DIPLOMACY AND DEVELOPMENT IN A FRACTURING WORLD

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “America Forward: Restoring Diplomacy and Development in a Fracturing World”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

CONFRONTING THE CORONAVIRUS: PERSPECTIVES ON THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ONE YEAR LATER

Committee on Homeland Security: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Confronting the Coronavirus: Perspectives on the COVID-19 Pandemic One Year Later”. Testimony was heard from A. Nicole Clowers, Managing Director, Health Care Team, Government Accountability Office; Ngozi O. Ezike, M.D., Director, Illinois Department of Public Health; J. Ryan McMahon II, County Executive, Onondaga County, New York; and a public witness.

THE NEED FOR NEW LOWER COURT JUDGEShips, 30 YEARS IN THE MAKING

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet held a hearing entitled “The Need for New Lower Court Judgeships, 30 Years in the Making”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE RISE OF DOMESTIC TERRORISM IN AMERICA

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security held a hearing entitled “The Rise of Domestic Terrorism in America”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS TO PUT THE POSTAL SERVICE ON SUSTAINABLE FINANCIAL FOOTING

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Legislative Proposals to Put the Postal Service on Sustainable Financial Footing”. Testimony was heard from Ron Bloom, Chairman, U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors; Louis DeJoy, Postmaster General, U.S. Postal Service; Tammy Whitcomb, Inspector General, U.S. Postal Service; and public witnesses.

PERSPECTIVES FROM MAIN STREET: RAISING THE WAGE

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Regulations held a hearing entitled “Perspectives from Main Street: Raising the Wage”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EXAMINING EQUITY IN TRANSPORTATION SAFETY ENFORCEMENT

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Highways and Transit held a hearing entitled “Examining Equity in Transportation Safety Enforcement”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine Department of Defense support to the COVID-19 response, 9:30 a.m., SD-G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the coronavirus crisis, focusing on next steps for rebuilding Main Street, 9:30 a.m., WEBEX.

Committee on the Budget: to hold hearings to examine poverty wages at large profitable corporations, 10:15 a.m., SD-608.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: business meeting to consider subcommittee assignments, 10 a.m., SD-106.

Committee on Finance: business meeting to consider committee rules and designation of subcommittees for the 117th Congress, designation of members to serve on the Joint Committee on Taxation, and designation of members to serve as Congressional Trade Advisors on Trade Policy and Negotiations, 9:45 a.m., SD-215.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Katherine C. Tai, of the District of Columbia,

to be United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, 10 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Vivek Hallegere Murthy, of Florida, to be Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service, and to be Surgeon General of the Public Health Service, and Rachel Leland Levine, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary, both of the Department of Health and Human Services, 10 a.m., SH-216.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Climate Change and the U.S. Agriculture and Forestry Sectors”, 12:30 p.m., 1300 Longworth and Webex.

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, oversight hearing on the Office of Inspector General, Department of Agriculture, 10 a.m., Webex.

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, hearing entitled “U.S. Capitol Police and House Sergeant at Arms, Security Failures Hearing” 10 a.m., Webex.

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled “Strategies for Energy and Climate Innovation”, 2 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Ethics, Full Committee, organizational meeting, 3 p.m., 1015 Longworth and Webex.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on National Security, International Development, and Monetary Policy, hearing entitled “Dollars Against Democracy: Domestic Terrorist Financing in the Aftermath of Insurrection”, 10 a.m., Webex.

Subcommittee on Investor Protection, Entrepreneurship and Capital Markets, hearing entitled “Climate Change and Social Responsibility: Helping Corporate Boards and Investors Make Decisions for a Sustainable World”, 2 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1157, the “Department of State Authorization Act of 2021”; H.R. 1251, the “Cyber Diplomacy Act”; H. Res. 124, supporting the people of Belarus and their democratic aspirations and condemning the election rigging and subsequent violent crackdowns on peaceful protesters by the illegitimate Lukashenka regime; H.R. 241, the “Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2021”; H.R. 567, the “Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership Program Act of 2021”; H. Res. 130, condemning the continued violation of rights and freedoms of the people of Hong Kong by the People’s Republic of China and the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region; H. Res. 134, condemning the military coup that took place on February 1, 2021, in Burma and the Burmese military detention of civilian leaders, calling for the release of all those detained and for those elected to serve in Parliament to resume their duties, and for other purposes; H.R. 1112, the “Protect Democracy in Burma Act of 2021”; H. Res. 137, reaffirming the importance of upholding democracy, human

rights, and the rule of law in United States foreign policy; H. Res. 136, emphasizing the importance and interdependence of diplomacy and international development to American interests and national security; H.R. 965, to establish a comprehensive United States Government initiative to build the capacity of young leaders and entrepreneurs in Africa, and for other purposes; and H.R. 1211, the “American Values and Security in International Athletics Act”, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on House Administration, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Strengthening American Democracy”, 4 p.m., Webex.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial, and Administrative Law, hearing entitled “Reviving Competition, Part 1: Proposals to Address Gatekeeper Power and Lower Barriers to Entry Online”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Building Back the U.S. Research Enterprise: COVID Impacts and Recovery”, 10 a.m., Webex.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

11 a.m., Thursday, February 25

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Thursday, February 25

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 12 noon), Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Jennifer Mulhern Granholm, of Michigan, to be Secretary of Energy, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation thereon at approximately 12:10 p.m.

Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Miguel A. Cardona, of Connecticut, to be Secretary of Education, at 1:30 p.m.

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Consideration of H.R. 5—Equality Act. Begin consideration of H.R. 803—Colorado Wilderness Act of 2021.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

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