

Lankford	Mullin	Scott (SC)
Lee	Murkowski	Sheehy
Lummis	Ricketts	Sullivan
McConnell	Risch	Thune
McCormick	Rosen	Tillis
Moody	Rounds	Tuberville
Moran	Schmitt	Wicker
Moreno	Scott (FL)	Young

NAYS—43

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Schatz
Baldwin	Hirono	Schiff
Bennet	Kaine	Schumer
Blumenthal	Kim	Shaheen
Blunt Rochester	King	Slotkin
Booker	Klobuchar	Smith
Cantwell	Lujan	Van Hollen
Coons	Markey	Warner
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warnock
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Welch
Fetterman	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Hassan	Reed	
Heinrich	Sanders	

NOT VOTING—6

Boozman	Johnson	Paul
Gallego	Marshall	Peters

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BUDD). On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 43.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Kelly Loeffler, of Georgia, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

(The remarks of Ms. MURKOWSKI pertaining to the submission of S. 573 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

EXECUTIVE ORDERS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I want to shift gears for just a moment. Colleagues know that I am the chairman of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee. I have been on this committee since I came to the Senate, and it is a position that I hold very close. I represent a constituency of Alaskan Natives back in my home State.

We have over one-half the Tribes in the United States of America, and so my responsibility to them as their Federal representative is one, again, that I take very, very seriously.

There has been a fair amount of confusion, I think, uncertainty that has been brought about by many of the Executive orders, some of the Federal actions that we have seen, whether it is funding freezes or programs that are being put on pause. But one area that I want to make very, very clear to colleagues, as I have sought to make clear to those who are part of the incoming administration, that when we are speaking about our Indian Tribes and our Tribal programs, and the Federal funding that they receive, they do not fall into the category, if you will, of diversity, equity, inclusion.

And so when the Executive order was announced in the very first week of the Trump administration, there was con-

fusion as to whether or not Indian and Tribal programs were impacted, and in that confusion, I think, a lot of undue stress and anxiety.

And so I immediately asked the OMB—I met with Mr. Vought personally, and I asked him to take steps immediately to reaffirm the unique treatment, the programs and services to Indian Tribes based on their political and their legal status, which is recognized in our U.S. Constitution, in our treaties, under many Federal laws and policies, to ensure that there is no disruption to our Federal Tribal programs.

We know—our Supreme Court has affirmed our Indian Tribes are a unique political class—this is not a racial one—and their sovereignty and their trust relationship with the Federal Government must be upheld. And I shared this in a letter to the Acting Director of OMB.

We have seen, at least in a couple of the Departments already, that they clearly understand this distinct legal and political relationship. The Department of the Interior very quickly moved to add clarification.

On January 30, the Department of the Interior issued a Secretarial order that acknowledges that nothing in their order should be construed to affect the activities that implement the legal requirements, independent of the EOs, including the statutory authorities, treaty, and/or trust obligations of the Department to our Tribal nations and to our Native Hawaiian community. And so I appreciated that very clear message coming out of the Department of the Interior so early.

I think that it can be used as that model, that template, for other Federal Agencies because it is not just within Interior that we see Tribal programs, it is in other areas. We have just recently seen, out of the Department of Health and Human Services, that they recognize that as well. We are working, again, to make sure that any Tribal program has the clarity that they need and assurance that they and the beneficiaries will not be impacted.

We have a trust responsibility. We have an obligation that is clear. So avoiding any confusion, misunderstanding, or anxiety is something that I think we owe to our indigenous peoples across the country, and I am thankful that many within the new administration have stepped up to work with us to clear up any confusion that may be out there.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business for debate only, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, rule XXVI, paragraph 2, of the Standing Rules of the Senate requires each committee to adopt rules to govern the procedure of the committee and to publish those rules in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD not later than March 1 of the first year of each Congress. Today, the Committee on the Budget adopted committee rules of procedure.

Consistent with Standing Rule XXVI, I ask unanimous consent to have a copy of the rules of procedure of the Committee on the Budget printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET—RULES FOR THE
119TH CONGRESS
RULES OF PROCEDURE

I. Meetings

(1) Meeting Schedule. The committee shall hold its regular meeting on the first Thursday of each month. Additional meetings may be called by the chair as the chair deems necessary to expedite committee business.

(2) Open to the Public. Each meeting of the committee, including meetings to conduct hearings, shall be open to the public, except that a portion or portions of any such meeting may be closed to the public if the committee determines by record vote in open session of a majority of the members of the committee present that the matters to be discussed or the testimony to be taken at such portion or portions—

(a) will disclose matters necessary to be kept secret in the interests of national defense or the confidential conduct of the foreign relations of the United States;

(b) will relate solely to matters of the committee staff personnel or internal staff management or procedure;

(c) will tend to charge an individual with crime or misconduct, to disgrace or injure the professional standing of an individual, or otherwise to expose an individual to public contempt or obloquy, or will represent a clearly unwarranted invasion of the privacy of an individual;

(d) will disclose the identity of any informer or law enforcement agent or will disclose any information relating to the investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense that is required to be kept secret in the interests of effective law enforcement;

(e) will disclose information relating to the trade secrets or financial or commercial information pertaining specifically to a given person if—

(i) an act of Congress requires the information to be kept confidential by Government officers and employees; or

(ii) the information has been obtained by the Government on a confidential basis, other than through an application by such person for a specific Government financial or other benefit, and is required to be kept secret in order to prevent undue injury to the competitive position of such person; or

(f) may divulge matters required to be kept confidential under other provisions of law or Government regulations.

(3) Notice. Notice of, and the agenda for, any business meeting or markup shall be provided to each member and made available

to the public at least 72 hours prior to such meeting or markup.

II. Consideration of Budget Resolutions

(1) Amendment Consideration Generally. If the chair of the committee makes proposed legislative text of a budget resolution available to all committee members by 12:00 p.m., five days prior to the start of a meeting or markup to consider the resolution, during that meeting or markup:

(a) it shall not be in order to consider a first degree amendment unless the amendment has been submitted to the chief clerk by 5:00 p.m. two days prior to the start of the meeting or markup, except that an amendment in the nature of a substitute offered by the chair of the committee shall not be required to be filed in advance;

(b) it shall not be in order to consider a second degree amendment unless the amendment has been submitted to the chief clerk by 5:00 p.m. on the day prior to the start of the meeting or markup; and

(c) it shall not be in order to consider a side-by-side amendment unless the amendment has been submitted to the chief clerk by 5:00 p.m. on the day prior to the start of the meeting or markup, and the amendment is filed in relation to a particular first degree amendment that is considered by the committee.

(2) Amendments with No Force or Effect. During consideration of a budget resolution, it shall not be in order to consider an amendment that would have no force or effect if adopted.

III. Order of Recognition

Those members who are present at the start of any meeting of the committee including meetings to conduct hearings, shall be recognized in order of seniority based on time served as a member of the committee. Any members arriving after the start of the meeting shall be recognized, in order of appearance, after the most junior member.

IV. Quorums and Voting

(1) Definition of Quorum. Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this section, a quorum for the transaction of committee business shall consist of not less than one-third of the membership of the entire committee: Provided, that proxies shall not be counted in making a quorum.

(2) Reporting. A majority of the committee shall constitute a quorum for reporting to the Senate budget resolutions, legislative measures, nominations, or recommendations: Provided, that proxies shall not be counted in making a quorum.

(3) Testimony. For the purpose of taking sworn or unsworn testimony, a quorum of the committee shall consist of one Senator.

(4) Polling Authority.

(a) The committee may poll—

(i) internal committee matters including those concerning the committee's staff, records, and budget;

(ii) steps in an investigation, including issuance of subpoenas, applications for immunity orders, and requests for documents from agencies; and

(iii) other committee business that the committee has designated for polling at a meeting, except that the committee may not vote by poll on reporting to the Senate budget resolutions, legislative measures, nominations, or recommendations, and may not vote by poll on closing a meeting or hearing to the public.

(b) To conduct a poll, the chair shall circulate polling sheets to each member specifying the matter being polled and the time limit for completion of the poll. If any member requests, the matter shall be held for a meeting rather than being polled. The chief clerk shall keep a record of polls; if the com-

mittee determines by record vote in open session of a majority of the members of the committee present that the polled matter is one of those enumerated in Committee on the Budget Rules of Procedure I(2)(a)–(f), then the record of the poll shall be confidential. Any member may move at the committee meeting following a poll for a vote on the polled decision.

V. Proxies

When a record vote is taken in the committee on any budget resolutions, legislative measures, nominations, recommendations, amendments, or any other questions, a quorum being present, a member who is unable to attend the meeting may vote by proxy if the absent member has been informed of the matter on which the vote is being recorded and has affirmatively requested to be so recorded; except that no member may vote by proxy during the deliberations on budget resolutions unless a member is experiencing a health issue and the chair and ranking member agree to allow that member to vote by proxy on amendments to a budget resolution. While proxies may be voted on a motion to report a measure or matter from the committee, such a motion shall also require the concurrence of a majority of the members who are physically present at the time such action is taken.

VI. Hearings and Hearing Procedures

(1) Exemption from Two-Hour Rule. Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the committee is exempt from the prohibition on Senate committees meeting while the Senate is in session without special leave, after the conclusion of the first two hours after the meeting of the Senate commenced and in no case after two o'clock postmeridian unless consent therefor has been obtained from the majority leader and the minority leader (or in the event of the absence of either such leaders, from their designee(s)).

(2) Notice. The committee shall make public announcement of the date, place, time, and subject matter of any hearing to be conducted on any measure or matter at least 1 week in advance of such hearing, unless the chair and ranking member determine that there is good cause to begin such hearing at an earlier date.

(3) Witness Testimony Deadline. At least 24 hours prior to the scheduled start time of the hearing, a witness appearing before the committee shall file a written statement of proposed testimony, including visual exhibits intended for display during testimony, with the chief clerk who is responsible for circulating the proposed testimony to all members at the same time. The requirement that a witness submit testimony 24 hours prior to a hearing may be waived by the chair and the ranking member, following their determination that there is good cause for the failure of compliance.

(4) Witness Testimony Time Limit. Oral statements of witnesses shall be based upon their filed statements but shall be limited to 5 minutes duration. This period may be limited or extended at the discretion of the chair presiding at the hearings.

VII. Committee Reports

(1) Report Generally. When the committee has ordered a measure or recommendation reported, following final action, the report thereon shall be filed in the Senate at the earliest practicable time.

(2) Supplemental Report. A member of the committee, who gives notice of an intention to file supplemental, minority, or additional views at the time of final committee approval of budget resolutions, legislative measures, nominations, or recommenda-

tions, shall be entitled to not less than 3 calendar days in which to file such views, in writing, with the chief clerk of the committee. Such views shall then be included in the committee report and printed in the same volume, as a part thereof, and their inclusions shall be noted on the cover of the report. In the absence of timely notice, the committee report may be filed and printed immediately without such views.

VIII. Use of Display Materials in Committee by Members

Committee members may use the electronic display system provided in the committee hearing room or physical graphic displays during any meetings or hearings of the committee. Physical graphic displays are limited to the following:

Charts, photographs, or renderings:

Size: no larger than 36 inches by 48 inches.

Where: on an easel stand next to the member's seat or at the rear of the committee room.

The member may display such materials only at the time the member is speaking, and no more than two may be displayed at a time.

IX. Confirmation Standards and Procedures

(1) Standards. In considering a nomination, the committee shall inquire into the nominee's experience, qualifications, suitability, and integrity to serve in the position to which he or she has been nominated. The committee shall recommend confirmation if it finds that the nominee has the necessary integrity and is affirmatively qualified by reason of training, education, or experience to carry out the functions of the office to which he or she was nominated.

(2) Information Concerning the Nominee. Each nominee shall submit the following information to the chief clerk, who will distribute to the chair and ranking member at the same time:

(a) A detailed biographical resume which contains information concerning education, employment, and background which generally relates to the position to which the individual is nominated, and which is to be made public;

(b) Information concerning financial and other background of the nominee which is to be made public; provided, that financial information that does not relate to the nominee's qualifications to hold the position to which the individual is nominated, tax returns or reports prepared by federal agencies that may be submitted by the nominee shall, after review by the chair, ranking member, or any other member of the committee upon request, be maintained in a manner to ensure confidentiality; and

(c) Copies of other relevant documents and responses to pre-hearing questions and responses to questions for the record submitted in accordance with the deadline following the committee hearing, as the committee may so request, such as responses to questions concerning the policies and programs the nominee intends to pursue upon taking office.

(3) Report on the Nominee. After a review of all information pertinent to the nomination, a confidential report on the nominee may be prepared by the committee staff for the chair, the ranking member, and, upon request, for any other member of the committee. The report shall summarize the steps taken and the results of the committee inquiry, including any unresolved matters that have been raised during the course of the inquiry.

(4) Hearings. The committee shall conduct a hearing, subject to the hearing notice requirement, during which the nominee shall be called to testify under oath on all matters relating to the nominee's suitability for office, including the policies and programs

which the nominee would pursue while in that position. No hearing or meeting to consider the confirmation shall be held until at least 72 hours after the following events have occurred: the nominee has responded to the requirements set forth in subsection (2)—including responding to pre-hearing questions and questions for the record for hearings and meetings, respectively, and, if a report described in subsection (3) has been prepared, it has been presented to the chair and ranking member, and is available to other members of the committee, upon request.

(5) OMB Nominees. Pursuant to S. Res. 445, 108th Congr. §101 (2004) (adopted), the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs shall have joint jurisdiction over the nominations of persons nominated by the President to fill the positions of Director of Deputy Director for Budget within the Office and Management and Budget, and if one committee votes to order reported such a nomination, the other must report within 30 calendar days session, or be automatically discharged.

BAHRAIN

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, this month marks the 14th year since thousands of Bahraini citizens took to the streets to peacefully protest the oppressive practices of the Bahraini Government. These citizens—to include human rights defenders and pro-democracy activists—were brutally repressed by their own leaders. Since then, I have stood in solidarity with the Bahraini people demanding accountability, and I will continue to do so until we see real change.

Unfortunately, all these years later, the Bahraini Government has failed to implement basic changes to guarantee the fundamental rights that every government owes its citizens. The Government of Bahrain continues to impose restrictions on expression, assembly, and association.

Bahraini elections are neither free nor fair, and authorities systematically exclude and repress opposition voices. In 2023, the government arrested four men for simply suggesting on social media that Bahrain should improve its legislative system.

The State Department's most recent human rights report judged that there was no improvement in the human rights situation in Bahrain. No improvement? Nearly 15 years to address these fundamental flaws and the Bahraini Government still has nothing to show for it!

I called on the Government of Bahrain to release its political prisoners, and while I was heartened to hear that the Bahraini Government granted amnesty to 2,500 prisoners last year, they should not have been detained in the first place. Many of these prisoners were unjustly detained, and thousands remain in prison under inhumane conditions and without fair trial.

Hundreds of political prisoners remain detained in the now-infamous Jau Prison in Bahrain, where two people died last year because of medical neglect. The U.N. has raised troubling concerns that detainees at this facility

have been denied required medical care and do not have regular access to adequate food and safe drinking water. Some allegations have suggested that authorities have intentionally exposed prisoners to extreme heat in these facilities, at times reaching 122 degrees Fahrenheit. These conditions are unacceptable, particularly when many of these prisoners have been denied fair trials and due process.

My goal today is not to insult or undermine a U.S. ally. It is precisely because of our strong ties that I feel compelled to speak out and demand better. It is my greatest hope that someday I will be able to stop issuing these statements into the record every February because the Bahraini regime has stopped repressing its citizens and has instead entered into a real and inclusive dialogue with them.

In short, I am not asking for lip service; I am asking for real change. I renew my call on Bahrain's monarchy to halt its deliberate campaign of silencing peaceful opposition, to stop the indefensible revocation of citizenships, and to release political prisoners like Abdulhadi al-Khawaja and Abduljalil al-Singace.

And I call on the Trump administration and, in particular, Secretary Rubio—who has previously been a staunch advocate in the U.S. Senate for advancing human rights in Bahrain—to take this issue seriously and demand more accountability from Bahrain at the highest levels.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DR. BRIAN FONTES

• Mr. CURTIS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and honor the distinguished career of Dr. Brian Fontes, who recently announced his decision to step down as chief executive officer of NENA: The 9-1-1 Association after a remarkable decades-long career in public service, telecommunications, and 9-1-1.

Dr. Fontes received his undergraduate and master's degrees at Brigham Young University and his Ph.D. at Michigan State University. He then began his career as a communications professor at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, establishing the groundwork for his future contributions to the field.

Transitioning from academia to public service, Dr. Fontes served as senior adviser and chief of staff to FCC Commissioner James H. Quello. In this role, he was instrumental in shaping telecommunications policy during a time of rapid technological advancement.

In 1994, Dr. Fontes joined the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association as senior vice president for policy and administration, where he continued his involvement with international telecom policy. He was tasked with developing policies and guiding regulation for wireless services in South Africa, working with the transitioning new

government under F. W. de Klerk and Nelson Mandela.

In 1995, President Clinton appointed Dr. Fontes as the head of the U.S. Delegation to the International Telecommunication Union's World Radio Conference held in Geneva, Switzerland, granting him the rank of Ambassador. Following the 1995 Dayton agreement in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Dr. Fontes served as chairman of the Communication Regulatory Agency Council, working to develop policies and ensure wireless spectrum access in the newly formed country, thus guaranteeing wireless availability for its public.

Before joining NENA, Dr. Fontes was vice president of Federal relations for Cingular Wireless, continuing in that role following its merger with AT&T.

In 2008, Dr. Fontes took the helm at NENA, where he has been instrumental in advocating for the development and adoption of Next Generation 9-1-1 technologies and services. His leadership has helped ensure that Americans have access to reliable emergency services, that 9-1-1 centers have access to state-of-the-art technologies, and that 9-1-1 professionals receive best-in-class training.

As Dr. Fontes moves on to an exciting future, we reflect on his legacy of service, innovation, and dedication to public safety. His visionary leadership has left an indelible mark on emergency communications systems at home and abroad, and his work will continue to benefit future generations.

I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest gratitude to Dr. Brian Fontes for his unwavering commitment to enhancing public safety and telecommunications.●

RECOGNIZING STAGECOACH INN

• Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each month I recognize and celebrate the American entrepreneurial spirit by highlighting the success of small businesses in my home State of Idaho. Today, I am pleased to honor the Stagecoach Inn as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for February 2025.

The Stagecoach Inn was founded in 1959 by Willie Schrier, a U.S. Coast Guard veteran and a trained horse jockey. Willie was a pioneer in the food and bar industry, priding himself on providing high-quality service and a great meal to every customer at the Stagecoach Inn. For over two decades, Willie successfully ran the business before passing it down to his fraternal twin daughters Mary and Marian Schrier in 1980. The sisters, alongside their cousin Nettie Allen, maintained the restaurant's reputation for exceptional food and hospitality.

The sisters sold the establishment in 2009, and much to the dismay of many Treasure Valley residents, new management closed the businesses in 2011.