

the Native American health care system.

Perhaps most importantly, the Native American health bill permanently reauthorizes all current laws governing the Native American health care system. This means that once this bill is passed, Indian Country will never again have to wait nearly 20 years for a reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

This bill also authorizes long-term care services, including hospice care, assisted living, long-term care and home- and community-based care. Current law does not allow for these services to be provided by the Indian Health Service or tribal facilities. Although some areas of Indian Country are merely focused on addressing life or limb medical emergencies, other areas are in need of long-term care. Thus, I believe they should be authorized.

In addition, the bill establishes mental and behavioral health programs beyond alcohol and substance abuse, such as fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, child sexual abuse and prevention treatment programs. The mental health needs in Native American communities extend beyond alcohol and substance abuse, in fact over 1/3 of the health care needs in Indian Country are related to mental health. The comprehensive mental and behavioral health programs established as a result of this bill will bring necessary care and resources to Native Americans.

In order to address the tragic level of youth suicide, the bill includes behavioral health provisions solely focused on preventing Native American youth suicide. The youth suicide rate in Indian Country is 3.5 times higher than the general population. Earlier this year, I chaired an Indian Affairs hearing to draw attention to this important topic.

The bill also incorporates many new ideas aimed at improving the access to health care available to Native Americans. The bill authorizes projects which will incentivize tribes to use innovative facilities construction which save money and expand the health care services available to Native American communities. For example, these projects include the use of modular component facility construction and mobile health stations.

Modular component health facilities can be built at often one-third the cost and a fraction of the time of a typical health facility. In addition, mobile health stations will allow for Native Americans in rural areas without a hospital, increased access to specialty health services like dialysis, same-day surgery, dental care, or other services. Currently, there is an estimated \$3 billion backlog for maintenance, improvement and construction of Native American health care facilities. In addition, the average age of an Indian Health Service facility is 33 years, as compared to 7 years in the general population. These innovative health care fa-

cilities will go a long way in this disparity and improving access to health care for Native Americans across the country.

The Native American health bill establishes a health delivery demonstration project. This project provides for convenient care services, which could be offered in local grocery stores and other venues, to make health care more available to Native American communities. The health delivery demonstration project authorizes the Indian Health Service to consider other innovative health delivery models, like community health centers, and other models which will increase access to health care services.

I want to end by saying the need for health care is not new for Indian Country. Nowadays, the need for national health care reform is front page news, but our Native Americans have long been in need of health care reforms. Therefore, I intend to offer this Native American health bill as an amendment to any national health care reform bill considered on the Senate floor.

I want to thank all the Native American health advocates who assisted us in the development of this crucial piece of legislation. The Federal Government signed the dotted lines years ago, and today, we make an important step towards finally fulfilling those obligations.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2691. Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. KIRK) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2847, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2691. Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. KIRK) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2847, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 124, line 21, strike "section." and insert "section, including an assessment of actions other than increased Federal spending that would improve the development and interdepartmental coordination of the policies of the United States under the United States-Canada Transboundary Resource Sharing Understanding for shared groundfish stocks."

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public

that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on National Parks.

The hearing will be held on Wednesday, October 28, 2009, at 2:30 p.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on the current and expected impacts of climate change on units of the National Park System.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by email to allison_seyferth@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Sara Tucker at (202) 224-6224 or Allison Seyferth at (202) 224-4905.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests.

The hearing will be held on Thursday, October 29, 2009, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on the following bills:

S. 555, to provide for the exchange of certain land located in the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes;

S. 607, to amend the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986 to clarify the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture regarding additional recreational uses of National Forest System land that are subject to ski area permits, and for other purposes;

S. 721, to expand the Alpine Lakes Wilderness in the State of Washington, to designate the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River and Pratt River as wild and scenic rivers, and for other purposes;

S. 1122, to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to enter into cooperative agreements with State foresters authorizing State foresters to provide certain forest, rangeland, and watershed restoration and protection services;

S. 1328 and H.R. 689, to interchange the administrative jurisdiction of certain Federal lands between the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, and for other purposes;

S. 1442, to amend the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 to expand the authorization of the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, and the Interior to provide service-learning opportunities on public lands, establish a grant program for Indian Youth Service Corps, help restore the Nation's natural, cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational, and scenic resources, train a new generation of public land managers and enthusiasts, and promote the value of public service; and

H.R. 129, to authorize the conveyance of certain National Forest System lands in the Los Padres National Forest in California.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to

the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by email to allison_seyferth@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Scott Miller at (202) 224-5488 or Allison Seyferth at (202) 224-4905.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 15, 2009, at 2:30 p.m. in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 15, 2009, at 10 a.m., in room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled "What Women Want: Equal Benefits for Equal Premiums" on October 15, 2009. The hearing will commence at 10:30 a.m. in room 430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 15, 2009, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "Domestic Partner Benefits: Fair Policy and Good Business for the Federal Government."

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on October 15, 2009, at 10 a.m., in the SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct an executive business meeting.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on October 15, 2009, at 2:30 p.m.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, AND INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 15, 2009, at 10 a.m., to hold a subcommittee hearing entitled "Drought, Flooding, and Refugees: Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change in the World's Most Vulnerable Nations."

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS, HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY, AND GLOBAL WOMEN'S ISSUES

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 15, 2009, at 2:30 p.m., to hold a subcommittee hearing entitled "U.S. International Broadcasting into the War Zones: Iraq and Afghanistan."

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. BURRIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Riley Roberts be granted the privileges of the floor for my presentation.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar Nos. 481, 482 and 483; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc; that no further motions be in order; that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD as if read; provided further that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate return to legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Brendan V. Johnson, of South Dakota, to be United States Attorney for the District of South Dakota for the term of four years.

Karen Louise Loeffler, of Alaska, to be United States Attorney for the District of Alaska for the term of four years.

Steven Gerard O'Donnell, of Rhode Island, to be United States Marshal for the District of Rhode Island for the term of four years.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate returns to legislative session.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2009

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 2 p.m. on Monday, October 19; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate proceed to a period of morning business until 4:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 1776, the Medicare Physicians Fairness Act of 2009, under the previous order.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, under the previous order, at 5:30 p.m., Monday, the Senate will proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 1776.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2009, AT 2 P.M.

Mr. CASEY. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:59 p.m., adjourned until Monday, October 19, 2009, at 2 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

CLIFFORD L. STANLEY, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PERSONNEL AND READINESS, VICE DAVID S. C. CHU, RESIGNED.

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

JESSIE HILL ROBERSON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 18, 2013, VICE A. J. EGGENBERGER, RESIGNED.

JOSEPH F. BADER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 18, 2012. (REAPPOINTMENT)

PETER STANLEY WINOKUR, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 18, 2014. (REAPPOINTMENT)

FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

JILL LONG THOMPSON, OF INDIANA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION BOARD, FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION, FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 21, 2014, VICE NANCY C. PELLET, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

SCOTT BOYER QUEHL, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, VICE OTTO WOLFF, RESIGNED.

SCOTT BOYER QUEHL, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, VICE OTTO WOLFF, RESIGNED.

FEDERAL HOSPITAL INSURANCE TRUST FUND

CHARLES P. BLAHOUS, III, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE FEDERAL HOSPITAL INSURANCE TRUST FUND FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE THOMAS R. SAVING.

FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL INSURANCE TRUST FUND

CHARLES P. BLAHOUS, III, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE FEDERAL