

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND  
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. DURBIN. 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 Wednesday, March 25, 2009, at 9:30 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "Southern Border Violence: Homeland Security Threats, Vulnerabilities, and Responsibilities."

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

## COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled "Oversight of the Federal Bureau of Investigation" on Wednesday, March 25, 2009, at 9:30 a.m., in room SH-216 of the Hart Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 25, 2009, at 10:30 a.m.

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

## COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 25, 2009. The Committee will meet in room 418 of the Russell Senate Office Building beginning at 9:30 a.m.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION OPERATIONS,  
SAFETY, AND SECURITY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to hold a meeting during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 25, 2009, at 9:45 a.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

## SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Energy be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate in order to conduct a hearing on Wednesday, March 25, 2009, at 2 p.m., in room 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

## SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Health Care of the Committee on Finance will meet on

Wednesday, March 25, 2009, at 2:30 p.m., in room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

## SUBCOMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Personnel of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 25, 2009, at 2:30 p.m.

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

## SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 25, 2009 from 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. in Dirksen 106 for the purpose of conducting a hearing.

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

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH  
26, 2009

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow, Thursday, March 26; 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 then proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half; further, that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 1388, the national service legislation.

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

## PROGRAM

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, tomorrow, at 4 p.m. in room 217 of the Capitol Visitor Center, there will be a classified Senators-only briefing with Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Richard Holbrooke.

## ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent it stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of Senator BARRASSO.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

## ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the period of morning business tomorrow be limited to 1 hour.

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

## APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to Public Law 105-83, announces the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the National Council of the Arts: the Honorable SHELDON WHITEHOUSE of Rhode Island.

The Chair announces, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 105, adopted April 13, 1989, as amended by S. Res. 149, adopted October 5, 1993, as amended by Public Law 105-275, adopted October 21, 1998, further amended by S. Res. 75, adopted March 25, 1999, amended by S. Res. 383, adopted October 27, 2000, and amended by S. Res. 355, adopted November 13, 2002, and further amended by S. Res. 480 adopted November 21, 2004, the appointment of the following Senators as members of the Senate National Security Working Group for the 111th Congress: the Senator from Florida, Mr. NELSON, and the Senator from Connecticut, Mr. LIEBERMAN.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I make a note that these appointments to the National Security Working Group were inadvertently left off the March 9, 2009, appointment to this group.

SENIORS MENTAL HEALTH  
ACCESS AND IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I am honored to join my colleague from Arkansas, Senator BLANCHE LINCOLN, in introducing Nos. 671, the Seniors Mental Health Access Improvement Act.

For over a decade, Senator LINCOLN has been a strong voice advocating for health care policies in the Senate that apply specifically to rural communities. I am proud to join her as we fight to ensure Medicare patients living in rural and in frontier States have access to and a choice of their mental health professionals.

The Seniors Mental Health Access Improvement Act will permit marriage and family therapists and licensed professional counselors to bill Medicare directly. These providers will then receive 75 percent of the rate that psychiatrists and psychologists receive for the same services.

I want my colleagues to know that S. 671 does not expand covered Medicare services. It would simply give Medicare patients who are living in isolated frontier States, such as Wyoming, more choices for mental health providers.

Today, approximately three-quarters of the nationally designated mental health professional shortage areas are located in rural areas. Over half of all rural counties have no mental health services of any kind. Frontier counties have even more dramatic numbers—95 percent do not have a psychiatrist, 68 percent do not have a psychologist, and 78 percent do not have a social worker. Virtually all of Wyoming is designated a mental health professional shortage area.

In Wyoming, there is a total of 474 mental health providers who are currently eligible to care for Medicare patients and bill Medicare for their services—474. Additionally, we have over 500 licensed professional counselors and 61 marriage and family therapists who are currently licensed to practice. None of them are able, at this time, to charge Medicare for the services they provide. By enacting this Seniors Mental Health Access and Improvement Act, that would more than double—more than double—the number of mental health providers available to treat seniors in my State.

Medicare patients in Wyoming are often forced to travel great distances to see mental health providers who are currently recognized by the Medicare program. To make matters even more of a challenge, rural and frontier communities have a tough time recruiting and retaining these providers—all providers but especially mental health care providers. In many small towns, a licensed professional counselor or a marriage or family therapist is the only mental health care provider in the area.

Medicare laws only compound the current situation.

Right now, only psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, clinical social workers, and clinical nurse specialists can bill Medicare for mental health services. So it is time the Medicare Program recognizes the qualifications of licensed professional counselors and marriage and family therapists. They do play a crucial role in this Nation's mental health care.

These providers go through rigorous training, and it is similar to the curriculum of a master's level social worker. They must not be excluded from the Medicare Program. I believe S. 671 is critically important to the health and the well-being of our Nation's seniors. It is time for this bill to become law.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.  
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate now

stands adjourned until tomorrow at 9:30 a.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:29 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, March 26, 2009, at 9:30 a.m.

## NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

DALLAS P. TONSAGER, OF SOUTH DAKOTA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT, VICE THOMAS C. DORR, RESIGNED.

### DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

PETER A. KOVAR, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, VICE SHEILA MCNAMARA GREENWOOD.

### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

MARGARET A. HAMBURG, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE COMMISSIONER OF FOOD AND DRUGS, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, VICE ANDREW VON ESCHENBACH, RESIGNED.

### IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 271:

#### To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. ROBERT E. DAY, JR.

### IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

#### To be major

RYAN G. MCPHERSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

#### To be colonel

MARK J. IVEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

#### To be colonel

PAUL L. CANNON  
GARY S. LINSKY  
STEVEN A. SCHAICK  
CHERRI S. WHEELER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

#### To be major

RICHARD EDWARD ALFORD  
ROBERT J. ANDERSON  
SONDRA A. BELL  
TAMORA L. BRIGHT  
AMY E. BRYAN  
MATTHEW D. BURRIS  
ERNEST JOHN CALDERON II  
PAOLINO M. CALIENDO  
KEVIN D. CATRON  
LINDSAY E. CONTOVEROS  
ROYAL A. DAVIS  
WILLIAM D. DEITCH  
JAMES R. DORMAN  
GLORIA A. DOWNEY  
PAUL E. DURKES  
DARREN M. EICKEN  
LISA D. FILL  
SHELLY M. FRANK  
LANCE E. FREEMAN  
NATHAN N. FROST  
THOMAS A. GABRIELE  
DARREN S. GILKES  
ANDREW D. GILLMAN  
MARLA JUDITH GILLMAN  
CORETTA E. GRAY  
PATRICIA A. GRUEN  
MARGARET L. HANNAN  
CHARLES J. HEBNER  
RYAN A. HENDRICKS  
AMBER E. HIRSCH  
BRANDON C. JAROCH  
MATTHEW T. KING  
SHANDRA J. KOTZUN  
ERIKA E. LYNCH  
JOSEPH E. MAYAHAN  
SCOTT W. MEDLYN  
CHARLTON J. MEGINLEY  
ETIENNE J. MISZCZAK  
AIRON A. MOTHERSHED  
JASON S. OSBORNE  
BRENT P. OSGOOD  
STERLING C. PENDLETON  
STEPHAN PIEL

KEIRA A. POELLET  
JACOB A. PUGH  
MICHELLE A. QUITUGUA  
JENNIFER J. RAAB  
DREW G. ROBERTS  
DAVID ROUTHIER  
LEE F. SANDERSON  
MATTHEW G. SCHWARTZ  
DAMON P. SCOTT  
MULGHETTA A. SIUM  
DARRIN M. SKOUSEN  
TIAUNDA D. SORRELL  
JODI M. VELASCO  
WILLIAM DAVID VERNON  
TIFFANY M. WAGNER  
ELWOOD L. WATERS III  
DANIEL J. WATSON  
PAUL E. WELLING  
ROBERT C. WILDER  
DYLAN B. WILLIAMS  
RICHARD D. YOUNTS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

#### To be lieutenant colonel

CHRISTOPHER B. BENNETT  
THOMAS L. CLUFF, JR.  
ROBERT C. COTTRELL, JR.  
GAIL E. CRAWFORD  
TIFFANY A. DAWSON  
ANDREA M. DECAMARA  
PATRICK J. DOLAN  
DAVID B. EBY  
MICHELE A. FORTE  
PATRICK W. FRANZESE  
KYLE W. GREEN  
CALEB B. HALSTEAD, JR.  
BRANDON L. HART  
MATTHEW T. JARREAU  
JOHN C. JOHNSON  
JAMES H. KENNEDY III  
JAMES E. KEY III  
ANTONY B. KOLENC  
KIM E. LONDON  
AMY L. MOMBER  
MATTHEW J. MULBARGER  
CHARLES D. MUSSELMAN, JR.  
KATHERINE E. OLER  
DANIEL A. OLSON  
RALPH A. PARADISO  
MICHELE A. PEARCE  
JAMES W. RICHARDS IV  
MICHAEL S. RODERICK  
THOMAS M. RODRIGUES  
ROBERT N. RUSHAKOFF  
ELIZABETH L. SCHUCHSGOPAUL  
MICHAEL W. TAYLOR  
GRAHAM H. TODD  
OWEN W. TULLOS  
TIMOTHY J. TUTTLE  
JEREMY S. WEBER  
DAVID J. WESTERN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

#### To be lieutenant colonel

WILLIAM A. BARTOUL  
JAMES D. BRANTINGHAM  
DAVID L. CARR  
JOSEPH DEICHERT  
JAMES M. GLASS  
GREGORY D. JANS  
WILLIAM GERALD OSULLIVAN  
MARK W. SAHADY  
GERALD HARVEY SNYDER, JR.  
WARREN A. WATTIES  
G. LLOYD WOODBURY, JR.  
GEORGE T. YOUNSTRA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

#### To be major

PETER BRIAN ABERCROMBIE II  
TODD W. ABSHIRE  
MATTHEW P. ACER  
J. A. ACEVEDO  
RODER N. ACKLIN  
ADAM J. ACOCK  
OLGA L. ACOSTA  
DAVID C. ADAMS  
GREGORY M. ADAMS  
KIRK D. ADAMS  
MICHAEL J. ADAMS  
ROBERT B. ADAMS  
SCOTT L. ADAMS  
DAVID R. ADAMSON  
SUSAN M. ADAMSON  
SHILETTE M. ADDISON REED  
TONI L. AGNEW  
DIANA E. AGUILAR  
VICTOR J. AGUILAR  
JONATHAN E. AIRHART  
COREY M. AKIYAMA  
CARMELO ALAMO, JR.  
JOHN F. ALBERT  
MELISSA M. ALBLINGER  
FREDERICK V. ALDRICH  
BRIAN M. ALEXANDER  
CHARLES R. ALLEN, JR.  
JUSTIN T. ALLEN  
MATTHEW R. ALLEN