

## 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 IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TO THE GRADE INDICATED 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. SCHACK  
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

TAMONA 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. MANAHAN

SCOTT W. MEDLYN

CHARLTON J. MEGINLEY

ETIENNE J. MISZCZAK

AIRON A. MOTHERSHED

JASON S. OSBORNE

BRENT F. 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  
TIAUNDR A. 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. FRANZESKE

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. YOUTRA

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

RODGER 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

SHILETTA 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