

2009, at 10 a.m. in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate office building.

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

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mr. KAUFMAN. 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 Thursday, May 21, 2009, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled, "The Role of Small Business in Recovery Act Contracting."

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

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 21, 2009, at 9:30 a.m. to conduct a markup on pending legislation. 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.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 21, 2009, at 2:30 p.m.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION,
PRODUCT SAFETY, AND INSURANCE

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Insurance of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 21, 2009, at 10:30 a.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate office building.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND SPACE

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Science and Space of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 21, 2009, at 2:30 p.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate office building.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar Nos. 67, 144, 153, to and including 160, 162, 163, 164, 166, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, NOAA, and Navy; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; the motions to recon-

sider be laid upon the table en bloc; that no further motions be in order, and any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD; the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Cameron F. Kerry, of Massachusetts, to be General Counsel of the Department of Commerce.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Michael L. Connor, of Maryland, to be Commissioner of Reclamation.

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 8036 and 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Charles B. Green

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Herbert J. Carlisle

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Gen. William M. Fraser, III

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. William L. Shelton

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Daniel J. Darnell

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Vice Adm. Richard K. Gallagher

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment to the grade of lieutenant general in the United States Marine Corps while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Terry G. Robling

The following named officer for appointment to the grade of lieutenant general in the United States Marine Corps while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Joseph F. Dunford, Jr.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Philip J. Crowley, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Public Affairs).

Daniel Benjamin, of the District of Columbia, to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL
INTELLIGENCE

Priscilla E. Guthrie, of Virginia, to be Chief Information Officer, Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

THE JUDICIARY

Florence Y. Pan, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Rebecca M. Blank, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Economic Affairs.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

John D. Porcari, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of Transportation.

J. Randolph Babbitt, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration for the term of five years.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Aneesh Chopra, of Virginia, to be an Associate Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Judith A. McHale, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy.

Robert Orris Blake, Jr., of Maryland, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Seth David Harris, of New Jersey, to be Deputy Secretary of Labor.

NATIONAL MEDIATION BOARD

Linda A. Puchala, of Maryland, to be a Member of the National Mediation Board for a term expiring July 1, 2009.

Linda A. Puchala, of Maryland, to be a Member of the National Mediation Board for a term expiring July 1, 2012.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

John Q. Easton, of Illinois, to be Director of the Institute of Education Science, Department of Education for a term of six years.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN
DEVELOPMENT

Sandra Brooks Henriquez, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Peter M. Rogoff, of Virginia, to be Federal Transit Administrator.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Michael S. Barr, of Michigan, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S
DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN239 AIR FORCE nominations (12) beginning WILLIAM A. BARTOUL, and ending GEORGE T. YOUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 25, 2009.

PN240 AIR FORCE nominations (2394) beginning PETER BRIAN ABERCROMBIE II, and ending ERIC J. ZUHLSORF, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 25, 2009.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC
ADMINISTRATION

PN428 NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION nominations

(46) beginning MARK H. PICKETT, and ending RYAN A. WARTICK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 14, 2009.

PN429 NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION nominations (11) beginning HEATHER L. MOE, and ending MARINA O. KOSENKO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 14, 2009.

IN THE NAVY

PN52 NAVY nomination of Deandra G. Fuller, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 7, 2009.

PN57 NAVY nominations (6) beginning DANIEL G. CHRISTOFFERSON, and ending ALBERT D. PERPUSE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 7, 2009.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

SHI'ITE PERSONAL STATUS LAW IN AFGHANISTAN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to Calendar No. 61, S. Con. Res. 19.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 19) expressing the sense of Congress that the Shi'ite Personal Status Law in Afghanistan violates the fundamental human rights of women and should be repealed.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment to strike out all after the resolving clause and insert the part printed in italic and to strike out the preamble and insert the part printed in italic.

Whereas in March 2009, the Shi'ite Personal Status Law was approved by the parliament of Afghanistan and signed by President Hamid Karzai;

Whereas according to the United Nations, the law legalizes marital rape by mandating that a wife cannot refuse sex to her husband unless she is ill;

Whereas the law also weakens mothers' rights in the event of a divorce and prohibits a woman from leaving her home unless her husband determines it is for a "legitimate purpose";

Whereas President Barack Obama has called the law "abhorrent" and stated that "there are certain basic principles that all nations should uphold, and respect for women and respect for their freedom and integrity is an important principle";

Whereas the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has said that the law represents a "huge step in the wrong direction" and is "extraordinary, reprehensible and reminiscent of the decrees made by the Taliban regime in Afghanistan in the 1990s";

Whereas the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has asserted that passage of the law could discourage countries in Europe from contributing additional troops to help combat terrorism in the region;

Whereas President Karzai has instructed the Government of Afghanistan and members of the clergy to review the law and change any articles that are not in keeping with Afghanistan's Constitution and Islamic Sharia;

Whereas the law includes provisions that are fundamentally incompatible with the obligations of the Government of Afghanistan under various international instruments to which it is a party;

Whereas Afghanistan is a signatory of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which establishes the principle of non-discrimination, including on the basis of sex, and states that men and women are entitled to equal rights to marriage, during marriage, and at its dissolution;

Whereas Afghanistan became a party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, done at New York December 16, 1966, and entered into force January 3, 1976 (ICESCR), which emphasizes the principle of self-determination, in that men and women may freely determine their political status as well as their economic, social, and cultural development;

Whereas Afghanistan acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, done at New York December 18, 1979, and entered into force September 3, 1981 (CEDAW), which condemns discrimination against women in all its forms and reaffirms the equal rights and responsibilities of men and women during marriage and at its dissolution;

Whereas article 22 of the Constitution of Afghanistan (2003) prohibits any kind of discrimination between and privilege among the citizens of Afghanistan and establishes the equal rights of all citizens before the law;

Whereas the international community and the United States have a long-standing commitment to and interest in working with the people and Government of Afghanistan to re-establish respect for fundamental human rights and protect women's rights in Afghanistan; and

Whereas the provisions in the Shi'ite Personal Status Law that restrict women's rights are inconsistent with those goals: Now, therefore, be it Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), [That Congress—

【(1) urges the Government of Afghanistan and President Hamid Karzai to declare the provisions of the Shi'ite Personal Status Law on marital rape and restrictions on women's freedom of movement unconstitutional and an erosion of growth and development in Afghanistan;

【(2) supports the decision by President Karzai to analyze the draft law and strongly urges him not to publish it on the grounds that it violates the Constitution of Afghanistan and the basic human rights of women;

【(3) encourages the Secretary of State, the Special Representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan, the Ambassador-at-Large for International Women's Issues, and the United States Ambassador to Afghanistan to consider and address the status of women's rights and security in Afghanistan to ensure that these rights are not being eroded through unjust laws, policies, or institutions; and

【(4) encourages the Government of Afghanistan to solicit information and advice from the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry for Women's Affairs, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, and women-led nongovernmental organizations to ensure that current and future legislation and official policies protect and uphold the equal rights of women, including through national campaigns to lead public discourse on the importance of women's status and rights to the overall stability of Afghanistan.】
That Congress—

(1) urges the Government of Afghanistan to revise the Shi'ite Personal Status Law, includ-

ing its provisions on marital rape and women's freedom of movement, to ensure its consistency with internationally recognized rights of women, including those contained in treaties to which Afghanistan is a party;

(2) supports the decision by President Karzai to analyze the draft law and strongly urges him not to publish it until it has been revised to be consistent with internationally recognized rights of women;

(3) encourages the Secretary of State, the Special Representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan, the Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues, and the United States Ambassador to Afghanistan to consider and address the status of women's rights and security in Afghanistan to ensure that these rights are not being eroded through unjust laws, policies, or institutions; and

(4) encourages the Government of Afghanistan to solicit information and advice from the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, and women-led nongovernmental organizations to ensure that current and future legislation and official policies protect and uphold the equal rights of women, including through national campaigns to lead public discourse on the importance of women's status and rights to the overall stability of Afghanistan.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment at the desk be agreed to, the committee-reported amendments, as amended, if amended, be agreed to, the resolution, as amended, be agreed to, the preamble, as amended, be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, and that any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

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

The amendment (No. 1224) was agreed to, as follows:

Strike the 11th whereas clause.

The committee-reported amendment to the resolution was agreed to.

The committee-reported amendment, as amended, to the preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 19), as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, as amended, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 19

Whereas in March 2009, the Shi'ite Personal Status Law was approved by the parliament of Afghanistan and signed by President Hamid Karzai;

Whereas according to the United Nations, the law legalizes marital rape by mandating that a wife cannot refuse sex to her husband unless she is ill;

Whereas the law also weakens mothers' rights in the event of a divorce and prohibits a woman from leaving her home unless her husband determines it is for a "legitimate purpose";

Whereas President Barack Obama has called the law "abhorrent" and stated that "there are certain basic principles that all nations should uphold, and respect for women and respect for their freedom and integrity is an important principle";

Whereas the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has said that the law represents a "huge step in the wrong direction" and is "extraordinary, reprehensible and reminiscent of the decrees made by