

These disagreements can often result in the patient receiving a different course of treatment than they might have preferred—an undesirable yet easily avoidable outcome. We need to empower patients to express their wishes, to exert their choice, and to clearly define their preferences and expectations, whatever they may be, to those who will be along their side at that difficult time.

People often think, “I’m too young to worry about that.” Or, “I have plenty of time to deal with that later.” But these conversations aren’t just important for people who have been diagnosed with terminal illness or individuals approaching old age. In fact, if you wait too long, you may not get the chance.

Most diseases don’t discriminate and accidents can happen to anyone. The time for us to think about what our wishes might be is before we are in a crisis—when we can think clearly about the consequences of the course we select, consult with our spiritual and moral leaders, and discuss these difficult issues with family and friends. There are many physical, emotional, and spiritual components to these issues, and it takes careful reflection to determine which are most important to you.

I am very proud to say that my State has been a leader on this issue. We have a great organization called Honoring Choices Minnesota that provides resources and tools to help people start these difficult conversations with their families.

There will be several events in my State today and all across the country highlighting the importance of not only making your preferences known, but ensuring that people who want to can document their wishes through an advanced care directive, physicians order for life sustaining treatment, or other legal mechanism.

I encourage my colleagues and all Americans to take time today to think about their families, their wishes, and to begin planning for the future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL DELANEY

● Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and congratulate an excellent lawyer and a dedicated public servant—New Hampshire Attorney General Michael Delaney. As Mike completes more than 14 years of service to the people of New Hampshire I would like to acknowledge his significant record of accomplishments.

Long before Mike rose to the position of attorney general, he served as a prosecutor in the homicide unit. I was privileged to work with him on several murder trials, including the case involving two murdered Dartmouth professors. And I was proud to continue serving with him when I was the attorney general and he was the deputy at-

torney general, working together to provide leadership for the office.

Having had the privilege of working side by side with Mike, I can attest to his passion for seeking justice in all prosecutions, his outstanding advocacy on behalf of victims, and his commitment to providing the State with legal representation and counsel of the highest quality.

After serving as legal counsel to the governor, Mike was appointed to serve as New Hampshire’s attorney general in 2009. Throughout his service as attorney general, Mike served the people of New Hampshire with diligence, independence and integrity, leading by example as he and his staff performed the constitutional, statutory and common law duties of the attorney general as the State’s chief legal officer and chief law enforcement officer.

As Mike leaves public service to return to private practice, I commend him on a job well done. He has successfully carried forward the highest traditions of excellence and independence of the office of attorney general and leaves a legacy of improvements to all aspects of the work of the New Hampshire Department of Justice. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his service and wishing him, his wife Caroline, and their children Will, Maggie and Katie, well in all their future endeavors.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:39 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 882. An act to prohibit the awarding of a contract or grant in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold unless the prospective contractor or grantee certifies in writing to the agency awarding the contract or grant that the contractor or grantee has no seriously delinquent tax debts, and for other Purposes.

H.R. 1162. An act to amend title 31, United States Code, to make improvements in the Government Accountability Office.

H.R. 1246. An act to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to provide that the District of Columbia Treasurer or one of the Deputy Chief Financial Officers of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer of the District of Columbia may perform the functions and duties of the Office in an acting capacity if there is a vacancy in the Office.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 882. An act to prohibit the awarding of a contract or grant in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold unless the prospective contractor or grantee certifies in writing to the agency awarding the contract or grant that the contractor or grantee has no seriously delinquent tax debts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1162. An act to amend title 31, United States Code, to make improvements in the

Government Accountability Office; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 729. A bill to protect law abiding citizens by preventing criminals from obtaining firearms.

S. 730. A bill to prevent criminals from obtaining firearms through straw purchasing and trafficking.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 743. A bill to restore States’ sovereign rights to enforce State and local sales and use tax laws, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1131. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Review Group, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program” (RIN0560-A106) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1132. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Funding and Fiscal Affairs, Loan Policies and Operations, and Funding Operations; Accounting and Reporting Requirements; Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation Funding and Fiscal Affairs; GAAP References and Other Conforming Amendments” (RIN3052-AC75) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1133. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a date for the completion of an annual report relative to recruitment incentives; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1134. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Report to Congress on Corrosion Policy and Oversight Budget Materials for Fiscal Year 2014”; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1135. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Report to Congress On Repair of Naval Vessels in Foreign Shipyards”; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1136. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report of the National Security Education Program for fiscal year 2012; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1137. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Syria that was declared in Executive Order

13338 of May 11, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1138. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving U.S. exports to Mongolia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1139. A communication from the Chairman of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving U.S. exports to Hong Kong; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1140. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Flood Elevation Determinations" ((44 CFR Part 67) (Docket No. FEMA-2013-0002)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1141. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Flood Elevation Determinations" ((44 CFR Part 67) (Docket No. FEMA-2013-0002)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1142. A communication from the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Identity Theft Red Flags" (RIN3038-AD99) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1143. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, two reports on sequestration entitled: "OMB Sequestration Preview Report to the President and Congress for Fiscal Year 2014" and "OMB Report to the Congress on the Joint Committee Reductions for Fiscal Year 2014"; to the Committees on the Budget; and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1144. A communication from the Acting Assistant Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska—2013-14 and 2014-15 Subsistence Taking of Fish Regulations" (RIN1018-AX64) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2013; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1145. A communication from the Director of Human Resources, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, (8) eight reports relative to vacancies in the Environmental Protection Agency, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1146. A communication from the Acting Chief of the Branch of Recovery, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Reinstatement of Removal of the Virginia Northern Flying Squirrel From the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife" (RIN1018-AZ31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1147. A communication from the Chief of the Branch of Foreign Species, Fish and

Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Technical Correction for African Wild Ass" (RIN1018-AY31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1148. A communication from the Chief of the Branch of Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revised Designation of Critical Habitat for *Allium munzii* (Munz's Onion) and *Atriplex coronata* var. *notatior* (San Jacinto Valley Crowscale)" (RIN1018-AX42) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1149. A communication from the Chief of the Branch of Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for Southwestern Willow Flycatcher" (RIN1018-AX43) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1150. A communication from the Human Resources Specialist, Office of the Executive Director, Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the No FEAR Act for fiscal year 2012; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1151. A communication from the President, Inter-American Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Foundation's fiscal year 2012 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1152. A communication from the Director, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's fiscal year 2012 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1153. A communication from the Staff Director, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's fiscal year 2012 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. MENENDEZ for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

*Jacob J. Lew, of New York, to be United States Governor of the International Monetary Fund for a term of five years; United States Governor of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of five years; United States Governor of the Inter-American Development Bank for a term of five years; United States Governor of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, for the Committee on Foreign Relations I report favorably the following nomination list which was printed in the RECORD on the date indi-

cated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that this nomination lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

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

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Margaret A. Hanson-Muse and ending with Sarah E. Kemp, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 27, 2013.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Mr. HELLER):

S. 731. A bill to require the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency to conduct an empirical impact study on proposed rules relating to the International Basel III agreement on general risk-based capital requirements, as they apply to community banks; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 732. A bill to modify the criteria used by the Corps of Engineers to dredge small ports; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. COONS, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, and Mr. KIRK):

S. 733. A bill to amend the Department of Energy High-End Computing Revitalization Act of 2004 to improve the high-end computing research and development program of the Department of Energy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. NELSON (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 734. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 735. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve benefits and assistance provided to surviving spouses of veterans under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 736. A bill to establish a maximum amount for special use permit fees applicable to certain cabins on National Forest System land in the State of Alaska; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SHELBY:

S. 737. A bill to require the Federal banking agencies to conduct a quantitative impact study on the cumulative effect of the Basel III framework devised by the Basel