

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE POW/
MIA FLAG

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the upcoming 25th anniversary of the POW/MIA flag.

In May of 1970, the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia was founded in Washington, D.C. One year after the first official meeting, Mary Hoff, the wife of a service member designated as missing in action during the Vietnam War, introduced the idea of creating a flag to remember and honor military men and woman like her husband.

Twenty-five years ago, on August 25, 1990, Congress designated the POW/MIA flag as "the symbol of our Nation's concern and commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia." Now, the POW/MIA flag flies for every man and woman who has given his or her life for our great country and remains captured or missing.

To commemorate the 25th anniversary of the recognition of this flag, Wheeler-Young VFW Post 201 from Waterbury, Connecticut will lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery on August 10, 2015. VFW Post 201 is a vibrant post involved in numerous activities in the Waterbury community. They recently celebrated the grand opening of their new location. Wheeler-Young VFW Post 201 exemplifies the promise of leaving no man behind and the mission to educate and promote veterans' issues. Post 201 is a pillar of our community.

Thank you to Post 201 for recognizing and honoring our nation's Prisoners of War and personnel Missing in Action. I stand with you to ensure that they are not forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO MERCY CORNING HOSPITAL

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mercy Corning Hospital of Corning, Iowa, for receiving a Silver Safety Award.

Each year the National Safety Council Greater Omaha Chapter recognizes businesses, organizations, and individuals who demonstrate an outstanding commitment to safety. Mercy Corning Hospital was given this prestigious award for continuously promoting a culture of safety and accountability. Their hard work and commitment to serving others through a safe and healthy hospital environment truly embodies our Iowa values.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent the members of the Mercy Corning Hospital in the United States Congress, and it is with great pride that I congratulate them today. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them for receiving this award and thanking them for their commitment to serving others. I

wish all the employees at Mercy Corning Hospital nothing but the best moving forward.

REGULATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE IN NEED OF SCRUTINY ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 427) to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law:

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Chair, yesterday, the House voted on H.R. 427, Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2015. I was unavoidably detained, but if I had been present, I would have opposed this legislation. While the bill claims to accomplish well-meaning goals such as increasing "accountability for and transparency in the federal regulatory process," it only threatens the historic separation of legislative and executive powers.

By requiring a joint resolution of approval from Congress before any "major" rules set forth by a federal agency come into effect, the REINS act attempts to undermine executive power and expand congressional regulatory authority. This partisan bill is a thinly veiled attempt to score political points by attacking the Obama Administration. And as Republican leaders take another ideological swipe at the Obama administration, a number of more pressing issues go unaddressed, especially as we leave for our District Work Period.

Second-guessing agency standards and rules that are supposed to be governed by Congressional laws is not only redundant but is reflective of the Republican's relentless pursuit of removing important and necessary regulations. Given that the bill also has a 70-day requirement to approve any new standards, the potential for delays in enacting public safeguards is steep, particularly if bipartisan coalitions can't quickly draft joint resolutions.

We have seen efforts to push this legislation through three times previously, and each time it has failed to pass both houses. I urge my fellow Members of Congress to reject this harmful piece of legislation once more.

REGULATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE IN NEED OF SCRUTINY ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 427) to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 427, the so-called "Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act of 2015."

The REINS Act is yet another attempt by House Republicans to limit the ability of federal agencies to enforce commonsense rules and regulations. This legislation would require Congressional approval before an agency can issue any major new rule. Congress relies on agencies to promulgate rules, because they have expertise in a given area. However, this bill would require that congressional politics play a part in deciding complicated rules and regulations. As a result, this legislation is designed to protect special interests while undermining the ability of federal agencies from doing their jobs and working to ensure there are safeguards in place to protect the public's health and safety.

Moreover, Congress already has considerable power to review and reject the rules issued by executive agencies. For the past two decades, Congress has had the authority to pass a joint resolution disapproving any rule within 60 days of receiving the rule. If the President signs the resolution of disapproval, the regulation is not implemented. In addition, President Obama has implemented significant reforms to the rulemaking process. In January 2010, he signed an Executive Order requiring agencies to determine if the benefits of proposed rules are justified considering their cost to society.

At a time when Congress should be doing everything it can to create jobs and improve the economy, this bill is nothing but a distraction. I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation.

CONGRESSWOMAN SEWELL URGES IMMEDIATE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to urge the immediate reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank. The Ex-Im Bank has become a crucial driver of our economy by offering loans, capital insurance, and other financial services to businesses who wish to invest in American products and grow their businesses. It fills the gap between domestic capital and domestic investment, ensuring that each and every opportunity to expand our economy has the financial backing to do so. Furthermore, the Ex-Im Bank is an exceptional government institution insofar that it both improves our economy and makes money.

For these reasons, Ex-Im Bank reauthorization has been relatively uncontroversial in the past. During the 112th Congress, my first term in office, we reauthorized the Ex-Im Bank with a vote that crossed party lines. However, I have witnessed the agreement and goodwill surrounding this issue deteriorate during my tenure. On July 1st, 2015, this burgeoning partisanship brought the Export-Import Bank to a screeching halt. Members of this congressional body refused to renew the charter for the Ex-Im Bank, allowing it to shut down entirely.

Since the first day of this month, our obstinacy has cost our nation over fifty million dollars. Every day that we allow this shut down to continue, we are shortchanging our taxpayers another two million dollars. This inaction is irresponsible, short-sighted, and detrimental to our economy. The American people want us to create jobs and help small businesses grow, not play political games.

I urge my colleagues to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank immediately.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, July 30, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

AUGUST 4

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Subcommittee on Superfund, Waste Management, and Regulatory Oversight

To hold an oversight hearing to examine litigation at the Environmental Protection Agency and Fish and Wildlife Service, focusing on impacts on the

United States economy, States, local communities, and the environment.

SD-406

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the back-end of the nuclear fuel cycle and related legislation, including S. 854, to establish a new organization to manage nuclear waste, provide a consensual process for siting nuclear waste facilities, ensure adequate funding for managing nuclear waste.

SD-366

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine preserving families and reducing the need for foster care.

SD-215

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, focusing on non-proliferation, inspections, and nuclear constraints.

SD-419

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Bureau of Prisons, focusing on first-hand accounts of challenges facing the Federal prison system.

SD-342

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Ann Calvaresi Barr, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, United States Agency for International Development, and David Malcolm Robinson, of Connecticut, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Conflict and Stabilization Operations), and to be Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization.

SD-419

3 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

AUGUST 5

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the implications of sanctions relief under the Iran agreement.

SD-538

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine reauthorizing the Higher Education Act, focusing on opportunities to improve student success.

SD-430

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the Department of Justice's legal obligation to ensure Inspector General access to all records needed for independent oversight.

SD-226

AUGUST 6

9 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management

To hold hearings to examine agency progress in retrospective review of existing regulations.

SD-342

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the procurement, acquisition, testing, and oversight of the Navy's *Gerald R. Ford*-class aircraft carrier program.

SD-G50

2:30 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

SEPTEMBER 10

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Adam J. Szubin, of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Crimes, Department of the Treasury.

SD-538