

American families. This amendment will make the lives of millions of American families even more challenging. Plus, if you take away legal counsel, you also complicate the resolution of disputes for businesses and others as well. You all know Legal Services is not a Washington-based bureaucratic program. To the contrary, there are legal aid attorneys and professionals in every State, with more than 800 offices. Legal Services' moneys are put to work back home across America outside of Washington.

In my Tampa Bay community, Bay Area Legal Services helps to keep the wheels of justice turning for everyone. What type of legal help? Foreclosure, consumer assistance, domestic violence. Many of the domestic violence victims are simply trying to keep their children safe and their families together. Others include veterans returning from war, families with housing issues, those that were hit hard by natural disasters and are dealing with the aftermath, and families involved in child custody disputes. I have seen these advocates in action. Many Members of Congress actually refer cases to Legal Services groups in our area. They help families navigate the justice system. They also boost the economy through avoided costs and swift resolution of disputes.

I would also like to remind my colleagues that Legal Services has already undergone significant cuts over the past few years. Funding for Legal Services was \$420 million in fiscal year 2010. It was cut—especially after sequestration in 2013—and any further cuts will do severe damage. This amendment jeopardizes access to justice and the rule of law.

This year's bill is a destructive step backwards which threatens these vital community services by slashing funding by \$75 million. This is the lowest level of funding since FY 1999. These devastating cuts will terminate over 1,000 full time staff including 430 attorney positions. Under these draconian cuts, Legal services offices across the country will be forced to close 25 offices, complete 150,000 fewer cases, and serve 350,000 fewer people.

In exacting such severe cuts, your advice to families is, "You can't get help". "You can't avoid a foreclosure". "You can't escape an abusive relationship or defend yourself against consumer scams".

We cannot allow hundreds of thousands of American veterans, elderly victims of foreclosure, and women and children desperate to escape domestic violence to be denied assistance.

So I strongly urge a "yes" vote on the Cohen amendment.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2577) making appropriations for the Departments of Trans-

portation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes:

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to the FY16 Transportation and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill.

In short, this bill is shortsighted and fraught with handouts to special interests at the expense of the safety of the American people.

Once again, the Majority in this body has squandered an opportunity to invest in our nation's crumbling roads and infrastructure, and it has squandered an opportunity to combat homelessness and provide access to safer, affordable housing for millions.

Our future prosperity and economic growth depend on the investments we make now to ensure America remains the most competitive nation in an increasingly global economy.

Instead of investing in safer rail to prevent accidents like the recent and fatal derailment of Amtrak in Philadelphia, this bill cuts Amtrak's budget by nearly \$290 million and subsequently hampers its ability to implement proven technologies that would have prevented this tragedy and countless others.

Instead of supporting the Federal Aviation Administration's efforts to implement NextGen technologies to keep our skies the safest in the world, this bill cuts the agency's capital investment program by \$100 million from the FY15 enacted level and \$355 million below the President's budget request.

This bill cuts funding to programs like Choice Neighborhoods and the Community Development Block Grants that would revitalize our communities, the Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes programs that would keep our families safe from harmful materials, and programs such as Housing for the Elderly that helps deliver the dignity and assistance for our most vulnerable populations.

This is just a bad bill, Mr. Chair, and these are just a few of the reasons why this is a terrible bill, and one that will surely be vetoed by the President.

I urge my colleagues to reject this bill and bring this legislation back to the drawing board.

HONORING MR. JOHN J. DAWDY

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2015

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mr. John J. Dawdy for his courageous service to our country. A graduate of Mabank High School, Private First Class Dawdy served in the 1 Marine Expeditionary Force (1 MEF) during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

On March 19, 2004, Pfc. Dawdy was driving a seven-ton truck in his unit's convoy. Shortly after leaving Camp Fallujah, Iraq, the convoy hit an improvised explosive device. With his leg torn with shrapnel, Pfc. Dawdy still managed to maintain control of his truck and maneuvered nearly one hundred yards before pulling off to the side of the road and losing consciousness. As a testament to his bravery and leadership, a fellow Marine called Pfc. Dawdy a "father figure" who made "all the

wise decisions." Pfc. Dawdy was awarded the Purple Heart for the injuries he sustained in combat while bravely serving his country.

Humbly, I echo the words of President Ronald Reagan, "We will always remember. We will always be proud. We will always be prepared, so we will always be free." And humbly, I offer my sincere gratitude to Pfc. John J. Dawdy for his service and acts of bravery that allow us the freedoms we enjoy today.

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 Tuesday, June 9, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 10

Time to be announced

Committee on Finance

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Anne Elizabeth Wall, of Illinois, to be a Deputy Under Secretary, and Brodi L. Fontenot, of Louisiana, to be Chief Financial Officer, both of the Department of the Treasury, and Rafael J. Lopez, of California, to be Commissioner on Children, Youth, and Families, Department of Health and Human Services.

TBA

9 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Peter V. Neffenger, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security, and David S. Shapira, of Pennsylvania, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2019.

SD-342

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Business meeting to consider S. 1140, to require the Secretary of the Army and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to propose a regulation revising the definition of the term "waters of the United States".

SD-406

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine passenger rail safety, focusing on accident prevention and on-going efforts to implement train control technology.

SR-253

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine health information exchange, focusing on a path towards improving the quality and value of health care for patients.

SD-430

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the Federal regulatory system to improve accountability, transparency and integrity.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

Business meeting to markup an original bill entitled, "Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016".

SD-192

1:30 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Luis Felipe Restrepo, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, Travis Randall McDonough, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee, and Waverly D. Crenshaw, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee.

SD-226

2 p.m.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine the escalating threat of ISIL in Central Asia.

RHOB-2175

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 248, to clarify the rights of Indians and Indian tribes on Indian lands under the National Labor Relations Act; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine addressing the need for victim services in Indian County.

SD-628

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Subcommittee on National Parks

To hold hearings to examine S. 145, to require the Director of the National Park Service to refund to States all State funds that were used to reopen and temporarily operate a unit of the National Park System during the October 2013 shutdown, S. 146, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into agreements with States and political subdivisions of States providing for the continued operation, in whole or in part, of public land, units of the National Park System, units of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and units of the National Forest System in the State during any period in which

the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture is unable to maintain normal level of operations at the units due to a lapse in appropriations, S. 319, to designate a mountain in the State of Alaska as Mount Denali, S. 329, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of the Farmington River and Salmon Brook in the State of Connecticut as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 403, to revise the authorized route of the North Country National Scenic Trail in northeastern Minnesota and to extend the trail into Vermont to connect with the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, S. 521, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of President Station in Baltimore, Maryland, S. 610, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of P.S. 103 in West Baltimore, Maryland and for other purposes, S. 782, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a bison management plan for Grand Canyon National Park, S. 873, to designate the wilderness within the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve in the State of Alaska as the Jay S. Hammond Wilderness Area, and S. 1483, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the James K. Polk Home in Columbia, Tennessee, as a unit of the National Park System.

SD-366

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management

To hold hearings to examine wasteful spending in the Federal government, focusing on an outside perspective.

SD-342

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine the proliferation of unwanted calls.

SD-562

5 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To receive a closed briefing on verification and assessment, focusing on how to create a successful inspection regime.

S-116

JUNE 11

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Ann Elizabeth Dunkin, of California, and Thomas A. Burke, and Jane Toshiko Nishida, both of Maryland, all to be to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

SD-406

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Business meeting to markup an original bill entitled, "Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2016", an original bill entitled, "Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016", and an original

bill entitled, "Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2016".

SD-106

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine accounts of current and former federal agency whistleblowers.

SD-342

2:30 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

JUNE 16

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Jonathan Elkind, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (International Affairs), and Monica C. Regalbutto, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Environmental Management).

SD-366

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security

Business meeting to markup an original bill entitled, "Fiscal Year 2016 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill."

SD-138

JUNE 18

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management

To hold hearings to examine the EPA's management of the renewable fuel standard program.

SD-342

JUNE 24

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine demanding results to end Native youth suicides.

SD-628

JULY 9

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

CANCELLATIONS

JUNE 11

10 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-226