

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has agreed to resolutions:

S. RES. 2

In the Senate of the United States, January 6, 2015.

Resolved, That the Secretary inform the House of Representatives that a quorum of the Senate is assembled and that the Senate is ready to proceed to business.

S. RES. 5

In the Senate of the United States, January 6, 2015.

Resolved, That the House of Representatives be notified of the election of the Honorable Orrin G. Hatch as President of the Senate pro tempore.

S. RES. 10

In the Senate of the United States, January 6, 2015.

Resolved, That the House of Representatives be notified of the election of the Honorable Julie E. Adams as Secretary of the Senate.

S. RES. 13

In the Senate of the United States, January 6, 2015.

Resolved, That the House of Representatives be notified of the election of the Honorable Frank J. Larkin as Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate.

ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 6

Resolved, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE: Mr. Conaway, Chair.

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS: Mr. Rogers of Kentucky, Chair.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES: Mr. Thornberry, Chair.

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET: Mr. Tom Price of Georgia, Chair.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE: Mr. Kline, Chair.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE: Mr. Upton, Chair.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS: Mr. Dent, Chair; Mr. Meehan; Mr. Gowdy; Mrs. Brooks of Indiana; and Mr. Marchant.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES: Mr. Hensarling, Chair.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Mr. Royce, Chair.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY: Mr. McCaul, Chair.

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION: Mrs. Miller of Michigan, Chair; Mr. Harper; Mr. Schock; Mr. Nugent; Mr. Rodney Davis of Illinois; and Mrs. Comstock.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY: Mr. Goodlatte, Chair.

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES: Mr. Bishop of Utah, Chair.

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM: Mr. Chaffetz, Chair.

COMMITTEE ON RULES: Mr. Sessions, Chair; Ms. Foxx; Mr. Cole; Mr. Woodall; Mr. Burgess; Mr. Stivers; and Mr. Collins of Georgia.

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY: Mr. Smith of Texas, Chair.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS: Mr. Chabot, Chair.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE: Mr. Shuster, Chair.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS: Mr. Miller of Florida, Chair.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS: Mr. Ryan of Wisconsin, Chair.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. Foxx). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Washington?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 7

Resolved, That the following named Members be and are hereby elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.—Mr. Peterson.

(2) COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS.—Mrs. Lowey (when sworn), Ms. Kaptur, Mr. Visclosky, Mr. Serrano, Ms. DeLauro, Mr. Price of North Carolina, Ms. Roybal-Allard, Mr. Farr, Mr. Fattah, Mr. Bishop of Georgia, Ms. Lee of California, Mr. Schiff, Mr. Honda, Ms. McCollum, Mr. Israel, Mr. Ryan of Ohio, Mr. Ruppersberger, Ms. Wasserman Schultz, Mr. Cuellar, Ms. Pingree of Maine, and Mr. Quigley.

(3) COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES.—Mr. Smith of Washington.

(4) COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET.—Mr. Van Hollen.

(5) COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE.—Mr. Scott of Virginia.

(6) COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE.—Mr. Pallone, Mr. Rush, Ms. Eshoo, Mr. Engel, Mr. Gene Green of Texas, Ms. DeGette, Mrs. Capps, Mr. Doyle, Ms. Schakowsky, Mr. Butterfield, Ms. Matsui, Ms. Castor of Florida, Mr. Sarbanes, Mr. McNerney, Mr. Welch, Mr. Ben Ray Lujan of New Mexico, Mr. Tonko (when sworn), Mr. Yarmuth, Ms. Clarke of NY, Mr. Loebsack, Mr. Schrader, Mr. Kennedy, and Mr. Cárdenas.

(7) COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES.—Ms. Waters (when sworn), Mrs. Carolyn B. Maloney of New York (when sworn), Ms. Velázquez (when sworn), Mr. Sherman, Mr. Meeks (when sworn), Mr. Capuano, Mr. Hinojosa, Mr. Clay, Mr. Lynch, Mr. David Scott of Georgia, Mr. Al Green of Texas, Mr. Cleaver, Ms. Moore, Mr. Ellison, Mr. Perlmutter, Mr. Himes, Mr. Carney, Ms. Sewell of Alabama, Mr. Foster, Mr. Kildeer, Mr. Murphy of Florida, Mr. Delaney, Ms. Sinema, Mrs. Beatty, Mr. Heck of Washington, and Mr. Vargas.

(8) COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS.—Mr. Engel (when sworn).

(9) COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY.—Mr. Thompson of Mississippi.

(10) COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION.—Mr. Brady of Pennsylvania.

(11) COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY.—Mr. Conyers.

(12) COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES.—Mr. Grijalva.

(13) COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM.—Mr. Cummings.

(14) COMMITTEE ON RULES.—Ms. Slaughter, Mr. McGovern, Mr. Hastings of Florida, and Mr. Polis.

(15) COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY.—Ms. Eddie Bernice Johnson of Texas.

(16) COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS.—Ms. Velázquez (when sworn).

(17) COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE.—Mr. DeFazio.

(18) COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS.—Ms. Brown of Florida.

(19) COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS.—Mr. Levin, Mr. Rangel (when sworn), Mr. McDermott, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Neal, Mr. Becerra, Mr. Doggett, Mr. Thompson of California, Mr. Larson of Connecticut, Mr. Blumenauer, Mr. Kind, Mr. Pascarella, Mr. Crowley (when sworn), Mr. Danny K. Davis of Illinois, and Ms. Linda T. Sánchez of California.

Mr. BECERRA (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR THE DESIGNATION OF CERTAIN MINORITY EMPLOYEES

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, I offer a resolution and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 8

Resolved, That pursuant to the Legislative Pay Act of 1929, as amended, the six minority employees authorized therein shall be the following named persons, effective January 6, 2015, until otherwise ordered by the House, to-wit: Nadeam Elshami, George Kundanis, Diane Dewhirst, Richard Meltzer, Wyndee Parker, and Drew Hammill, each to receive gross compensation pursuant to the provisions of House Resolution 119, Ninety-fifth Congress, as enacted into permanent law by section 115 of Public Law 95-94. In addition, the Minority Leader may appoint and set the annual rate of pay for up to 3 further minority employees.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FIXING THE DAILY HOUR OF MEETING OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 9

Resolved, That unless otherwise ordered, the hour of daily meeting of the House shall be 2 p.m. on Mondays; noon on Tuesdays (or 2 p.m. if no legislative business was conducted on the preceding Monday); noon on Wednesdays and Thursdays; and 9 a.m. on all other days of the week.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HIRE MORE HEROES ACT OF 2015

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 22) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 22

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Hire More Heroes Act of 2015”.

SEC. 2. EMPLOYEES WITH HEALTH COVERAGE UNDER TRICARE OR THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN DETERMINING EMPLOYERS TO WHICH THE EMPLOYER MANDATE APPLIES UNDER PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4980H(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(F) EXEMPTION FOR HEALTH COVERAGE UNDER TRICARE OR THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION.—Solely for purposes of determining whether an employer is an applicable large employer under this paragraph for any month, an individual shall not be taken into account as an employee for such month if such individual has medical coverage for such month under—

“(i) chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code, including coverage under the TRICARE program, or

“(ii) under a health care program under chapter 17 or 18 of title 38, United States Code, as determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2013.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within to which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 22, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, only a law as bad as ObamaCare would penalize a small business for hiring a veteran.

Madam Speaker, right now, the law says if you have at least 50 full-time employees, you must give all of them health insurance even if they are already getting health insurance elsewhere. In fact, over 9 million veterans are already getting health care through the VA, but they are not exempt. Every employer has to cover them anyway.

So here is what is happening. Businesses have an incentive to turn away veterans, not because they don't want to hire them, but because it is too expensive to hire them. This is serving as a penalty to hiring our Nation's veterans.

Madam Speaker, nobody works harder than our men and women that serve us in our military. They fought for our country, and they sacrificed. The least we can do is remove this penalty from putting a veteran on your payroll. The way I see it is we owe it to them. We should make it as easy as possible for them to find a job. That is what we are trying to do with this legislation.

What this bill says is that if you are already getting health care through TRICARE or the VA, then you are exempt from the mandate. Anyone can hire you without any fear of this penalty. I think we can all agree that more veterans on the payroll means a healthier economy for all of us.

Now, I think all families need relief from ObamaCare. All of us need relief from this law that we think is going to collapse under its own weight, but I consider this bill as an installment plan, as one piece of our ongoing efforts to fully repeal and replace this law.

Madam Speaker, we have an enormous generation of talented men and women who have served this country so honorably overseas in the recent years. The least we can do is make it easier for an employer to hire them and remove this penalty that puts a price tag on hiring the bravest among us.

Most of all, I want to thank Congressman RODNEY DAVIS for bringing this issue to our attention. I want to thank Congressman DAVIS for introducing this legislation.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I shall consume.

First of all, I would like to congratulate Mr. RYAN on your selection in election, I guess, as chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. We look forward to working together.

Madam Speaker, I support this bill. This bill encourages the hiring of veterans. The unemployment rate has con-

tinued to decline for post-9/11 veterans, and these improvements are part of a larger economic recovery.

In November 2013, the unemployment rate for these veterans was nearly 10 percent. One year later, the rate has dropped to 5.7 percent, the national average; yet for female post-9/11 veterans, the unemployment rate remains high, above 8 percent.

This bill continues as part of our national commitment to help the veterans of this country. I want to emphasize this if I might: as we legislate, we need to balance priorities. We need to maintain—very differently than just spoken—the basic structure of ACA, which is providing millions and millions of Americans with insurance and with coverage they never had.

We also need to encourage the hiring of the veterans of this country who have served this Nation and serve this Nation so well. That is a supreme obligation of this institution; therefore, I support this legislation and reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, at this time, I would like to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Topeka, Kansas (Ms. JENKINS), a member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I was a freshman lawmaker in 2010 when the President's partisan health care law was passed through Congress and became law. I worried at the time that it would take our health care system in the wrong direction and would lead to numerous unintended consequences that could hurt American families. Now that the law is being implemented, we can see that this is indeed true.

The employer mandate penalty tax is a troublesome and confusing piece of the President's health care law. The American people want to see it fixed. The legislation that we are debating right now will exempt those who employ members of our Nation's military and veterans from the employer mandate.

Because our current and former servicemembers already receive health care from TRICARE and the VA, it simply does not make sense to force small businesses to treat these folks as if they do not have health insurance, which drives up the cost of doing business, leaving less for employees' salaries. In fact, the current law effectively punishes small businesses for hiring these heroes.

Madam Speaker, I was a proud cosponsor and supporter of this legislation in the last Congress, and I am happy to again stand today in support of this commonsense provision. I ask that you support it.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield as much time as she shall consume to the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. GABBARD), someone who has served this Nation