

EC-4117. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-252, "Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Support Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2015"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4118. A communication from the Chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Semiannual Management Report for the period from April 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4119. A communication from the Vice President (Acting) for Congressional and Public Affairs, Millennium Challenge Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corporation's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4120. A communication from the Executive Secretary, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Africa, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2016; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4121. A communication from the Executive Secretary, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Europe and Eurasia, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2016; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4122. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, "Report to Congress on the Social and Economic Conditions of Native Americans: Fiscal Years 2009 and 2010, 2011, and 2012"; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-4123. A communication from the Clerk of Court, United States Court of Federal Claims, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Court's annual report for the year ended September 30, 2015; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4124. A communication from the Chief of the Office of Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Commerce in Firearms and Ammunition—Reporting Theft or Loss of Firearms in Transit (2007R-9P)" (RIN1140-AA34) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 12, 2016; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4125. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report from the Attorney General to Congress relative to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-4126. A communication from the Chief Impact Analyst, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Automobile or Other Conveyance and Adaptive Equipment Certificate of Eligibility for Veterans or Members of the Armed Forces with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Connected to Military Service" (RIN2900-AP26) received in the Office of the

President of the Senate on January 12, 2016; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-4127. A communication from the Deputy Chief Financial Officer, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Schedule of Fees for Access to NOAA Environmental Data, Information, and Related Products and Services: Correction" (RIN0648-BE86) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 6, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4128. A communication from the Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rules of Practice in Transportation: Investigative Hearings, Meetings, Reports, and Petitions for Reconsideration" (RIN3147-AA02) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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. INHOFE:

S. 2444. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for the disposition, within 60 days, of an application to exempt a projectile from classification as armor piercing ammunition; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 2445. A bill to improve the effectiveness and coordination of nutrition education; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

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

S. 2446. A bill to amend subtitle D of the Solid Waste Disposal Act to encourage recovery and beneficial use of coal combustion residuals and establish requirements for the proper management and disposal of coal combustion residuals that are protective of human health and the environment; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 2447. A bill to impose sanctions on individuals who are complicit in human rights abuses committed against nationals of Vietnam or their family members, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. COONS:

S. 2448. A bill to provide for the appointment of additional Federal bankruptcy judges, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Mr. SASSE, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. RISCH, Mr. COTTON, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. INHOFE):

S. Con. Res. 27. A concurrent resolution affirming the importance of religious freedom as a fundamental human right that is essential to a free society and is protected for all Americans by the text of the Constitution, and recognizing the 230th anniversary of the enactment of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 71

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 71, a bill to preserve open competition and Federal Government neutrality towards the labor relations of Federal Government contractors on Federal and federally funded construction projects.

S. 298

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 298, a bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to provide States with the option of providing services to children with medically complex conditions under the Medicaid program and Children's Health Insurance Program through a care coordination program focused on improving health outcomes for children with medically complex conditions and lowering costs, and for other purposes.

S. 314

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 314, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of pharmacist services.

S. 391

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 391, a bill to preserve and protect the free choice of individual employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, or to refrain from such activities.

S. 429

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 429, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide a standard definition of therapeutic foster care services in Medicaid.

S. 454

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 454, 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.

S. 678

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 678, a bill to declare

English as the official language of the United States, to establish a uniform English language rule for naturalization, and to avoid misconstructions of the English language texts of the laws of the United States, pursuant to Congress' powers to provide for the general welfare of the United States and to establish a uniform rule of naturalization under article I, section 8, of the Constitution.

S. 708

At the request of Mr. KING, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) and the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) were added as cosponsors of S. 708, a bill to establish an independent advisory committee to review certain regulations, and for other purposes.

S. 746

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 746, a bill to provide for the establishment of a Commission to Accelerate the End of Breast Cancer.

S. 901

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 901, a bill to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a national center for research on the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions of the descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during service in the Armed Forces that are related to that exposure, to establish an advisory board on such health conditions, and for other purposes.

S. 1377

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1377, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to clarify and expand Federal criminal jurisdiction over Federal contractors and employees outside the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1555

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 1555, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Filipino veterans of World War II, in recognition of the dedicated service of the veterans during World War II.

S. 1567

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1567, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for a review of the characterization or terms of discharge from the Armed Forces of individuals with mental health disorders alleged to affect terms of discharge.

S. 1683

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Nebraska

(Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1683, a bill to provide for the establishment of a process for the review of rules and sets of rules, and for other purposes.

S. 1747

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1747, a bill to improve the enforcement of sanctions against the Government of North Korea, and for other purposes.

S. 1775

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1775, a bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to accept additional documentation when considering the application for veterans status of an individual who performed service as a coastwise merchant seaman during World War II, and for other purposes.

S. 1858

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1858, a bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation, and for other purposes.

S. 1874

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1874, a bill to provide protections for workers with respect to their right to select or refrain from selecting representation by a labor organization.

S. 1890

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1890, a bill to amend chapter 90 of title 18, United States Code, to provide Federal jurisdiction for the theft of trade secrets, and for other purposes.

S. 2144

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. 2144, a bill to improve the enforcement of sanctions against the Government of North Korea, and for other purposes.

S. 2185

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2185, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of the fight against breast cancer.

S. 2218

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2218, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain amounts paid for physical activity, fit-

ness, and exercise as amounts paid for medical care.

S. 2223

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2223, a bill to transfer administrative jurisdiction over certain Bureau of Land Management land from the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for inclusion in the Black Hills National Cemetery, and for other purposes.

S. 2248

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2248, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to coordinate Federal congenital heart disease research efforts and to improve public education and awareness of congenital heart disease, and for other purposes.

S. 2263

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2263, a bill to encourage effective, voluntary private sector investments to recruit, employ, and retain men and women who have served in the United States military with annual Federal awards to private sector employers recognizing such investments, and for other purposes.

S. 2275

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2275, a bill to provide for automatic acquisition of United States citizenship for certain internationally adopted individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 2284

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2284, a bill to suspend the admission and resettlement of aliens seeking refugee status because of the conflict in Syria until adequate protocols are established to protect the national security of the United States and for other purposes.

S. 2337

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2337, a bill to improve homeland security by enhancing the requirements for participation in the Visa Waiver Program, and for other purposes.

S. 2377

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2377, a bill to defeat the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and protect and secure the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2386

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2386, a bill to

authorize the establishment of the Stonewall National Historic Site in the State of New York as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

S. 2423

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2423, a bill making appropriations to address the heroin and opioid drug abuse epidemic for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

S. 2426

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2426, a bill to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to obtain observer status for Taiwan in the International Criminal Police Organization, and for other purposes.

S. 2427

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2427, a bill to prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities who need long-term services and supports, and for other purposes.

S. 2437

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2437, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the burial of the cremated remains of persons who served as Women's Air Forces Service Pilots in Arlington National Cemetery, and for other purposes.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 27—AFFIRMING THE IMPORTANCE OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AS A FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHT THAT IS ESSENTIAL TO A FREE SOCIETY AND IS PROTECTED FOR ALL AMERICANS BY THE TEXT OF THE CONSTITUTION, AND RECOGNIZING THE 230TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENACTMENT OF THE VIRGINIA STATUTE FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Mr. SASSE, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. RISCH, Mr. COTTON, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. INHOFE) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. CON. RES. 27

Whereas American democracy is rooted in the fundamental truth that all are created

equal, endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable rights, among which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness;

Whereas few freedoms were more valued by those who settled this nation than the freedom of conscience, prompting Thomas Jefferson to declare in the Letter to New London Methodists, dated Feb. 4, 1809, that “no provision in our Constitution ought to be dearer to man than that which protects the rights of conscience against the enterprises of the civil authority”;

Whereas the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, which was drafted by Thomas Jefferson and considered by him to be one of his greatest achievements, was enacted on January 16, 1786, and became the forerunner of the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution;

Whereas “the right to freedom of religion undergirds the very origin and existence of the United States”, a freedom which was established by our Nation’s founders “in law, as a fundamental right and as a pillar of our Nation”, as noted in section 2 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998;

Whereas the role of religion in American society and public life has a long and robust tradition;

Whereas those who have studied American democracy from an outside perspective, such as Alexis de Tocqueville, have noted that religion plays a central role in preserving our government because it provides a moral base that is required for democracy to succeed;

Whereas the Supreme Court has affirmed in *Town of Greece v. Galloway* that “people of many faiths may be united in a community of tolerance and devotion”;

Whereas the principle of religious freedom “has guided our Nation forward”, as expressed by the 44th President of the United States in his Presidential Proclamation on Religious Freedom Day in 2011, and “is a universal human right to be protected here at home and across the globe”, as expressed by the 44th President of the United States on the same occasion in 2013;

Whereas “Freedom of religion is a fundamental human right that must be upheld by every nation and guaranteed by every government”, as expressed by the 42nd President of the United States in his Presidential Proclamation on Religious Freedom Day in 1999;

Whereas the First Amendment protects the right of individuals to freely express and act on their religious beliefs, as well as the freedom of all individuals to not be coerced to profess or act on a religious belief to which they do not adhere;

Whereas “our laws and institutions should not impede or hinder but rather should protect and preserve fundamental religious liberties”, as expressed by the 42nd President of the United States in his remarks on signing the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993;

Whereas for countless Americans, their faith is an integral part of every aspect of their daily lives, and is not limited to their homes, to houses of worship, or to doctrinal creeds;

Whereas “religious faith has inspired many of our fellow citizens to help build a better Nation”, where “people of faith continue to wage a determined campaign to meet needs and fight suffering”, as expressed by the 43rd President of the United States in his Presidential Proclamation on Religious Freedom Day in 2003;

Whereas “from its birth to this day, the United States has prized this legacy of religious freedom and honored this heritage by standing for religious freedom and offering refuge to those suffering religious persecution”, as noted in section 2 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998;

Whereas Thomas Jefferson noted in 1822 that the constitutional freedom of religion is “the most inalienable and sacred of all human rights”, and also wrote in 1798 that each right encompassed in the First Amendment is dependent on the others, “thereby guarding in the same sentence, and under the same words, the freedom of religion, of speech, and of the press: inasmuch, that whatever violated either, throws down the sanctuary which covers the others”;

Whereas religious freedom “has been integral to the preservation and development of the United States”, and “the free exercise of religion goes hand in hand with the preservation of our other rights”, as expressed by the 41st President of the United States in his Presidential Proclamation on Religious Freedom Day in 1993; and

Whereas we “continue to proclaim the fundamental right of all peoples to believe and worship according to their own conscience, to affirm their beliefs openly and freely, and to practice their faith without fear or intimidation”, as expressed by the 42nd President of the United States in his Presidential Proclamation on Religious Freedom Day in 1998; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) honors the 230th anniversary of the passage of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom on Religious Freedom Day, January 16, 2016; and

(2) affirms that—

(A) religious freedom includes the right to live, work, associate, and worship in accordance with one’s beliefs for people of any faith or of no faith;

(B) all Americans can be unified in supporting religious freedom, regardless of differing individual beliefs, because it is a fundamental human right; and

(C) “the American people will remain forever unshackled in matters of faith”, as expressed by the 44th President of the United States in his Presidential Proclamation on Religious Freedom Day in 2012.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the privileges of the floor be granted to Benjamin Reinke, a congressional fellow with the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, effective today through December 31, 2016.

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

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my detailee, Michael Kades, be granted floor privileges through March 21, 2016, while detailed to the U.S. Senate.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator CANTWELL, I ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be granted to the following individuals with the Committee on Energy and National Resources: Frances Brie Van Cleve, a Democratic fellow, through December 31, 2016; Stephanie Teich-McGoldrick, a Democratic fellow, through December 31, 2016; and Betsy Rosenblatt, a Democratic detailee, through December 31, 2016.

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