

Americans—no matter the color of their skin, where their parents were born, or how they pray.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I would like to bring attention to an important anniversary in the history of the U.S. Senate. Today marks the 150th anniversary of the creation of the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

In 1867, the Senate passed a resolution creating a standing committee on appropriations. The committee was founded to bring greater discipline to government spending by consolidating the control, management and oversight of federal expenditures.

The primary role of the Congress in appropriating taxpayer dollars is explicit in our Constitution. It is an important responsibility and must not be taken lightly.

The Appropriations Committee has served the American people by working together to make thoughtful decisions in the allocation of public funds. It is challenging work. Each year we consider a vast amount of input from public hearings, expert sources, our fellow Senators, and our constituents. We do our best to weigh competing priorities and make responsible recommendations.

The Appropriations Committee faces great pressures as discretionary spending is increasingly crowded out by mandatory spending and persistent deficits. It is more important than ever that the appropriations bills be brought before the Senate for careful consideration. I hope we can find a way to do that in the coming months and years.

As we mark the 150th anniversary of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, I look forward to working with my friend and vice chairman, the Senator from Vermont. I hope all Senators will work with us to enact appropriations bills that provide for a strong national defense and support our country's domestic and international priorities.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the

Senate Appropriations Committee. Established on March 6, 1867, its powers are rooted in article I, section 9 of our Constitution, which states, “No money shall be drawn from the treasury, but in consequence of appropriations made by law.” The founders of our country recognized the power of the purse as one of the most important tools Congress has to ensure our system of checks and balance and to conduct oversight of the Executive and Judicial branch, but it is much more than that. The Appropriations Committee is also where we translate the priorities of a nation into the realities of the people.

Our country is not a business, where we allocate resources only according to the bottom line. We do not invest in order to make a profit, or a one-for-one dollar in return. We invest in those areas where it is uniquely right for government to take the lead. We invest in the areas that make a difference in the everyday lives of Americans and that help build the foundations of our country and our economy—infrastructure, national security, our environment, education, health care. The Appropriations Committee is where we fund nutrition programs to ensure that children do not have to sit through class hungry and remain healthy so they can develop and grow. It is where we allocate the resources to clean our lakes and our streams and make investments in growing our communities and promoting jobs. It is where we invest in research to cure cancer. It is where we can define who we are as a country.

I have been a member of this Committee for almost my entire tenure in the Senate, and just a few short months ago, I became vice chair. I am proud to serve on this committee, and I feel honored to join in the ranks of its leaders. Today I am glad to join you all in celebrating 150 years of an institution that is at the foundation of the Senate. I look forward to working with my friend Chairman COCHRAN in continuing the long and bipartisan history of the Appropriations Committee in the months and years ahead.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

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. TESTER (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. COONS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 528. A bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to provide leave because of the death of a son or daughter; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Mr. COTTON):

S. 529. A bill to prohibit the use of eminent domain in carrying out certain projects; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MANCHIN:

S. 530. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to disclose to non-Department of Veterans Affairs health care providers certain medical records of veterans who receive health care from such providers; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 531. A bill to amend the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 to designate a portion of the Edward T. Breathitt Parkway as Interstate Route I-169; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 532. A bill to prohibit the use of United States Government funds to provide assistance to Al Qaeda, Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and to countries supporting those organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. NELSON (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. REED, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 533. A bill to modernize the Undetectable Firearms Act of 1988; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. McCASKILL, Mrs. ERNST, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 534. A bill to prevent the sexual abuse of minors and amateur athletes by requiring the prompt reporting of sexual abuse to law enforcement authorities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. THUNE:

S. 535. A bill to amend the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act to make applicable to the State of South Dakota a provision relating to certain Bureau of Reclamation permit fees; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. McCONNELL, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. SCOTT):

S.J. Res. 32. A joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to savings arrangements established by States for non-governmental employees; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. McCONNELL, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. SCOTT):

S.J. Res. 33. A joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to savings arrangements established by qualified State political subdivisions for non-governmental employees; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. COONS, Mr. REED, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. CARPER, Mr. NELSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. PERDUE, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. Res. 81. A resolution recognizing the 196th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating democracy in Greece and the United States; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

s. 27

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 27, a bill to establish an independent commission to examine and report on the facts regarding the extent of Russian official and unofficial cyber operations and other attempts to interfere in the 2016 United States national election, and for other purposes.

s. 59

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) were added as cosponsors of S. 59, a bill to provide that silencers be treated the same as long guns.

s. 198

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 198, a bill to require continued and enhanced annual reporting to Congress in the Annual Report on International Religious Freedom on anti-Semitic incidents in Europe, the safety and security of European Jewish communities, and the efforts of the United States to partner with European governments, the European Union, and civil society groups, to combat anti-Semitism, and for other purposes.

s. 220

At the request of Mr. SASSE, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 220, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion.

s. 222

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 222, a bill to repeal provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and provide private health insurance reform, and for other purposes.

s. 242

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 242, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to permit veterans to grant access to their records in the databases of the Veterans Benefits Administration to certain designated congressional employees, and for other purposes.

s. 297

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 297, a bill to increase competition in the pharmaceutical industry.

s. 303

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 303, a bill to discontinue a Federal program that authorizes State and local law enforcement officers to investigate, apprehend, and detain aliens in accordance with a written agreement with the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and to clarify that immigration enforcement is solely a function of the Federal Government.

s. 327

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 327, a bill to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to provide a safe harbor related to certain investment fund research reports, and for other purposes.

s. 339

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 339, 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, and for other purposes.

s. 352

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 352, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Master Sergeant Rodrick "Roddie" Edmonds in recognition of his heroic actions during World War II.

s. 379

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 379, a bill to

amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the five month waiting period for disability insurance benefits under such title for individuals with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

s. 397

At the request of Mr. CORKER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 397, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure fairness in Medicare hospital payments by establishing a floor for the area wage index applied with respect to certain hospitals.

s. 422

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 422, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

s. 444

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 444, a bill to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to expand the investor limitation for qualifying venture capital funds under an exemption from the definition of an investment company.

s. 446

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 446, a bill to allow reciprocity for the carrying of certain concealed firearms.

s. 462

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 462, a bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to refund or credit certain excess payments made to the Commission.

s. 484

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 484, a bill to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to terminate an exemption for companies located in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and any other possession of the United States.

s. 497

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 497, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of certain lymphedema compression treatment items as items of durable medical equipment.

s. 512

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 512, a bill to modernize the regulation of nuclear energy.