

EC-466. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Contractor Employee Internal Confidentiality Agreements or Statements" ((RIN9000-AN04) (FAC 2005-95)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 11, 2017; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-467. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Contracts Under the Small Business Administration 8(a) Program" ((RIN9000-AM68) (FAC 2005-95)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 11, 2017; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-468. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Prohibition on Reimbursement for Congressional Investigations and Inquiries" ((RIN9000-AM97) (FAC 2005-95)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 11, 2017; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-469. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-95; Small Entity Compliance Guide" (FAC 2005-95) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 11, 2017; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-470. A communication from the Chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's fiscal year 2014 and fiscal year 2015 FAIR Act Commercial and Inherently Governmental Activities Inventory; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-471. 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-472. 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-473. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area; American Fisheries Act; Amendment 113" (RIN0648-BF54) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 11, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-474. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Inflation Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties" (RIN3072-AC66) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 11, 2017; to the Com-

mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-475. A communication from the Chair of the Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Panel's annual report for 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-9. A petition from a citizen of the State of Minnesota relative to the Minnesota Presidential Certificate of Vote; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with amendments:

S. Res. 6. A resolution objecting to United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334 and to all efforts that undermine direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians for a secure and peaceful settlement.

By Mr. McCAIN, from the Committee on Armed Services, without amendment:

S. 84. A bill to provide for an exception to a limitation against appointment of persons as Secretary of Defense within seven years of relief from active duty as a regular commissioned officer of the Armed Forces.

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE—TREATY

The following executive report of committee was submitted:

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Treaty Doc. 114-12: Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro (Ex. Rept. 115-1)

The Text of the committee-recommended resolution of advice and consent to ratification is as follows:

As reported by the Committee on Foreign Relations:

Resolved, (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein),

Section 1. Senate Advice and Consent Subject to Declarations, an Understanding, and Conditions.

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro, which was opened for signature at Brussels on May 19, 2016, and signed that day on behalf of the United States of America (the "Protocol") (Treaty Doc. 114-12), subject to the declarations of section 2 and the conditions of section 3.

Sec. 2. Declarations.

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following declarations:

(1) REAFFIRMATION THAT UNITED STATES MEMBERSHIP IN NATO REMAINS A VITAL NATIONAL SECURITY INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES.—The Senate declares that—

(A) for more than 60 years the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has served as the preeminent organization to defend the countries in the North Atlantic area against all external threats;

(B) through common action, the established democracies of North America and Eu-

rope that were joined in NATO persevered and prevailed in the task of ensuring the survival of democratic government in Europe and North America throughout the Cold War;

(C) NATO enhances the security of the United States by embedding European states in a process of cooperative security planning and by ensuring an ongoing and direct leadership role for the United States in European security affairs;

(D) the responsibility and financial burden of defending the democracies of Europe and North America can be more equitably shared through an alliance in which specific obligations and force goals are met by its members;

(E) the security and prosperity of the United States is enhanced by NATO's collective defense against aggression that may threaten the security of NATO members; and

(F) United States membership in NATO remains a vital national security interest of the United States.

(2) STRATEGIC RATIONALE FOR NATO ENLARGEMENT.—The Senate finds that—

(A) the United States and its NATO allies face continued threats to their stability and territorial integrity;

(B) an attack against Montenegro, or its destabilization arising from external subversion, would threaten the stability of Europe and jeopardize United States national security interests;

(C) Montenegro, having established a democratic government and having demonstrated a willingness to meet the requirements of membership, including those necessary to contribute to the defense of all NATO members, is in a position to further the principles of the North Atlantic Treaty and to contribute to the security of the North Atlantic area; and

(D) extending NATO membership to Montenegro will strengthen NATO, enhance stability in Southeast Europe, and advance the interests of the United States and its NATO allies.

(3) SUPPORT FOR NATO'S OPEN DOOR POLICY.—The policy of the United States is to support NATO's Open Door Policy that allows any European country to express its desire to join NATO and demonstrate its ability to meet the obligations of NATO membership.

(4) FUTURE CONSIDERATION OF CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP IN NATO.—

(A) SENATE FINDING.—The Senate finds that the United States will not support the accession to the North Atlantic Treaty of, or the invitation to begin accession talks with, any European state (other than Montenegro), unless—

(i) the President consults with the Senate consistent with Article II, section 2, clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States (relating to the advice and consent of the Senate to the making of treaties); and

(ii) the prospective NATO member can fulfill all of the obligations and responsibilities of membership, and the inclusion of such state in NATO would serve the overall political and strategic interests of NATO and the United States.

(B) REQUIREMENT FOR CONSENSUS AND RATIFICATION.—The Senate declares that no action or agreement other than a consensus decision by the full membership of NATO, approved by the national procedures of each NATO member, including, in the case of the United States, the requirements of Article II, section 2, clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States (relating to the advice and consent of the Senate to the making of treaties), will constitute a commitment to collective defense and consultations pursuant to Articles 4 and 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty.

(5) INFLUENCE OF NON-NATO MEMBERS ON NATO DECISIONS.—The Senate declares that any country that is not a member of NATO shall have no impact on decisions related to NATO enlargement.

(6) SUPPORT FOR 2014 WALES SUMMIT DEFENSE SPENDING BENCHMARK.—The Senate declares that all NATO members should continue to move towards the guideline outlined in the 2014 Wales Summit Declaration to spend a minimum of 2 percent of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on defense and 20 percent of their defense budgets on major equipment, including research and development, by 2024.

(7) SUPPORT FOR MONTENEGRO'S DEMOCRATIC REFORM PROCESS.—Montenegro has made difficult reforms and taken steps to address corruption. The United States and other NATO member states should not consider this important process complete and should continue to urge additional reforms.

Sec. 3. Conditions.

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following conditions:

(1) PRESIDENTIAL CERTIFICATION.—Prior to the deposit of the instrument of ratification, the President shall certify to the Senate as follows:

(A) The inclusion of Montenegro in NATO will not have the effect of increasing the overall percentage share of the United States in the common budgets of NATO.

(B) The inclusion of Montenegro in NATO does not detract from the ability of the United States to meet or to fund its military requirements outside the North Atlantic area.

(2) ANNUAL REPORT ON NATO MEMBER DEFENSE SPENDING.—Not later than December 1 of each year during the 8-year period following the date of entry into force of the Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report, which shall be submitted in an unclassified form, but may be accompanied by a classified annex, and which shall contain the following information:

(A) The amount each NATO member spent on its national defense in each of the previous 5 years.

(B) The percentage of GDP for each of the previous 5 years that each NATO member spent on its national defense.

(C) The percentage of national defense spending for each of the previous 5 years that each NATO member spent on major equipment, including research and development.

(D) Details on the actions a NATO member has taken in the most recent year reported to move closer towards the NATO guideline outlined in the 2014 Wales Summit Declaration to spend a minimum of 2 percent of its GDP on national defense and 20 percent of its national defense budget on major equipment, including research and development, if a NATO member is below either guideline for the most recent year reported.

Sec. 4. Definitions.

In this resolution:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term "appropriate congressional committees" means the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(2) NATO MEMBERS.—The term "NATO members" means all countries that are parties to the North Atlantic Treaty.

(3) NON-NATO MEMBERS.—The term "non-NATO members" means all countries that are not parties to the North Atlantic Treaty.

(4) NORTH ATLANTIC AREA.—The term "North Atlantic area" means the area cov-

ered by Article 6 of the North Atlantic Treaty, as applied by the North Atlantic Council.

(5) NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY.—The term "North Atlantic Treaty" means the North Atlantic Treaty, signed at Washington April 4, 1949 (63 Stat. 2241; TIAS 1964), as amended.

(6) UNITED STATES INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION.—The term "United States instrument of ratification" means the instrument of ratification of the United States of the Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro.

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. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. HATCH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. LEE, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MCCONNELL, and Mr. BLUNT):

S. 107. A bill to prohibit voluntary or assessed contributions to the United Nations until the President certifies to Congress that United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334 has been repealed; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CASEY, Mr. TOOMEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 108. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on medical devices; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. UDALL, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. PETERS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. COONS, Mr. DONNELLY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. WICKER, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. THUNE, Mr. MORAN, Mr. COTTON, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. DAINES, Mr. SCOTT, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 109. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of pharmacist services; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 110. A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to establish a constituent-driven program to provide a digital information platform capable of efficiently integrating coastal data with decision-support tools, training, and best practices and to support collection of priority coastal geospatial data to inform and improve local, State, regional, and Federal capacities to manage the coastal region, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HELLER (for himself and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 111. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to establish a process to determine whether individuals claiming certain service in the Philippines during World War II are eligible for certain benefits despite not being on the Missouri List, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 112. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize per diem payments under comprehensive service programs for homeless veterans to furnish care to dependents of homeless veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 113. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to increase the use of medical scribes to maximize the efficiency of physicians at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 114. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit an annual report regarding performance awards and bonuses awarded to certain high-level employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HELLER:

S. 115. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for an operation on a live donor for purposes of conducting a transplant procedure for a veteran, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 116. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit veterans who have a service-connected, permanent disability rated as total to travel on military aircraft in the same manner and to the same extent as retired members of the Armed Forces entitled to such travel; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 117. A bill to designate a mountain peak in the State of Montana as "Alex Diekmann Peak"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. KING, Mrs. CAPITO, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 118. A bill to make exclusive the authority of the Federal Government to regulate the labeling of products made in the United States and introduced in interstate or foreign commerce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. INHOPE, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 119. A bill to impose certain limitations on consent decrees and settlement agreements by agencies that require the agencies to take regulatory action in accordance with the terms thereof, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HELLER:

S. 120. A bill to provide for the creation of the Missing Armed Forces Personnel Records Collection at the National Archives, to require the expeditious public transmission to the Archivist and public disclosure of Missing Armed Forces Personnel records, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. HELLER:

S. 121. A bill to establish the veterans' business outreach center program, to improve the programs for veterans of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. HELLER (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. MENENDEZ):