

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SIGNIFICANT TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS THAT WAS ESTABLISHED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13581 ON JULY 24, 2011—PM 14

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to significant transnational criminal organizations declared in Executive Order 13581 of July 24, 2011, is to continue in effect beyond July 24, 2017. This notice superseded the notice regarding this topic submitted to the *Federal Register* on July 19, 2017.

The activities of significant transnational criminal organizations have reached such scope and gravity that they threaten the stability of international political and economic systems. Such organizations are increasingly sophisticated and dangerous to the United States; they are increasingly entrenched in the operations of foreign governments and the international financial system, thereby weakening democratic institutions, degrading the rule of law, and undermining economic markets. These organizations facilitate and aggravate violent civil conflicts and increasingly facilitate the activities of other dangerous persons.

The activities of significant transnational criminal organizations continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to con-

tinue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13581 with respect to transnational criminal organizations.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, July 20, 2017.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:13 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate

H.R. 2883. An act to establish a more uniform, transparent, and modern process to authorize the construction, connection, operation, and maintenance of international border-crossing facilities for the import and export of oil and natural gas and the transmission of electricity.

H.R. 2910. An act to provide for Federal and State agency coordination in the approval of certain authorizations under the Natural Gas Act, and for other purposes.

At 2:57 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 218. An act to provide for the exchange of Federal land and non-Federal land in the State of Alaska for the construction of a road between King Cove and Cold Bay.

H.R. 2825. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 218. An act to provide for the exchange of Federal land and non-Federal land in the State of Alaska for the construction of a road between King Cove and Cold Bay; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 2825. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2883. An act to establish a more uniform, transparent, and modern process to authorize the construction, connection, operation, and maintenance of international border-crossing facilities for the import and export of oil and natural gas and the transmission of electricity; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 2910. An act to provide for Federal and State agency coordination in the approval of certain authorizations under the Natural Gas Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2266. A communication from the Secretary of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to Freedom of Information Act Regulations" (RIN3038-AE57) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 10, 2017; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2267. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting the report of three (3) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of major general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2268. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting the report of two (2) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of major general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2269. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral (lower half) in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2270. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Frank C. Pandolfe, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2271. A communication from the Senior Official performing the duties of the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a certification of the Advanced Arresting Gear (AAG) program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2272. A communication from the Senior Official performing the duties of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report of the National Security Education Program for fiscal year 2016; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2273. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Army Industrial Facilities Cooperative Activities with Non-Army Entities for Fiscal Year 2016; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2274. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Minority and Women Inclusion Final Rule" (RIN2590-AA78) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 14, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2275. A communication from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Quality of Water, Colorado River Basin, Progress Report No. 25"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2276. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Illinois; NAAQS Updates" (FRL No. 9964-97-Region 5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 14, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2277. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of New Reactors, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of

a rule entitled “Generic Aging Lessons Learned for Subsequent License Renewal Applications for Nuclear Power Plants” (NUREG-2191, Volumes 1 and 2; and NUREG-2192) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 14, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2278. A communication from the Board of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance and Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Funds, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board’s 2017 Annual Report; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2279. A communication from the Board of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance and Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Funds, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board’s 2017 Annual Report; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2280. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Report to Congress on the Nurse Education, Practice, Quality, and Retention Program” for fiscal year 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2281. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Fiscal Year 2015 and Fiscal Year 2016 Distribution of Funds Under Section 330 of the Public Health Service Act Report to Congress”; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2282. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as Amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act—Accountability and State Plans” ((RIN1810-AB27) (Docket No. ED-2016-OESE-0032)) received in the Office of the President pro tempore of the Senate; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2283. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-97, “Fiscal Year 2017 Revised Local Budget Temporary Adjustment Act of 2017”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2284. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-99, “Fiscal Year 2018 Local Budget Act of 2017”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2285. A communication from the Chief of the Regulatory Coordination Division, Office of Policy and Strategy, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Exercise of Time-Limited Authority to Increase the Fiscal Year 2017 Numerical Limitation for the H-2B Temporary Nonagricultural Worker Program” (RIN1615-AC12) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 18, 2017; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2286. A communication from the Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Operating Officer of the National Tropical Botanical Garden, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to an audit of the Garden for the period from January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2287. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Severn River, Sherwood Forest, MD” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No.

USCG-2017-0468)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 18, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2288. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Navigation and Navigable Waters, and Shipping: Technical, Organizational, and Conforming Amendments” (Docket No. USCG-2016-0498) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 18, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-68. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Nevada urging the United States Congress not to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act or its most important provisions; to the Committee on Finance.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 9

Whereas, In 2010, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), commonly known as the Affordable Care Act, was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Barack Obama; and

Whereas, The Affordable Care Act established a comprehensive series of health insurance reforms designed to make universal, affordable health insurance coverage available to all Americans, while also controlling rising health care costs and ending certain common industry practices that limited access to health insurance coverage; and

Whereas, The Affordable Care Act expanded access to health insurance coverage by creating health insurance marketplaces, allowing children to stay on a parent’s health insurance plan until the age of 26 years, expanding Medicaid and establishing a system of tax credits and penalties designed to both encourage consumers to purchase individual health insurance coverage and provide incentives to businesses to encourage them to provide health insurance coverage to employees; and

Whereas, The Affordable Care Act prohibits an insurer from denying health insurance coverage to a person on the basis of a preexisting condition, prohibits an insurer from rescinding coverage, eliminates lifetime and annual limits on coverage, requires all marketplace plans to provide coverage for 10 essential health benefits, including preventative care, establishes a mechanism for consumers to appeal determinations regarding coverage and establishes a system to assist consumers in navigating the health insurance marketplace; and

Whereas, The Affordable Care Act additionally provides incentives to expand the number of primary health care providers and encourages them to serve in medically underserved areas, promotes alternative payment methodologies designed to improve the value of care and encourages patients to use community-based resources and other services intended to reduce unnecessary hospitalizations and inappropriate emergency department use; and

Whereas, The Affordable Care Act further mandates health insurance coverage for colorectal cancer screening tests for persons who are between 50 and 75 years of age, mammograms annually for women who are over 40 years of age, and regular screenings of women for cervical cancer and the human papillomavirus vaccine to prevent cervical cancer; and

Whereas, The Affordable Care Act mandates health insurance coverage for immunization vaccines for children, including, without limitation, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, influenza, measles and rotavirus; and

Whereas, The Affordable Care Act includes many other benefits and protections to ensure access to health care by all; and

Whereas, A number of national leaders have proposed repealing the Affordable Care Act during the 115th Congress without a plan to replace the Affordable Care Act which adequately protects the thousands of Nevadans who benefit from or may not have access to health insurance coverage without the Act; and

Whereas, Repealing the Affordable Care Act without establishing mechanisms to preserve the significant improvements and protections afforded by the law, and without adequately providing for those who stand to lose their health insurance coverage upon repeal, will have significant detrimental effects on individuals and their families, on the health care industry in general and on the overall economic well-being of both Nevada and the nation as a whole: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of Nevada Jointly, That the members of the 79th Session of the Nevada Legislature hereby urge Congress to fully preserve the critical benefits afforded by the Affordable Care Act which many Nevadans have come to rely upon; and be it further

Resolved, That Congress should not repeal the Affordable Care Act so that these essential programs remain available to future generations of Nevadans; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United States, as the presiding officer of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.

POM-69. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan supporting and encouraging the International Criminal Court to conduct an independent investigation into the human rights violations allegedly occurring in the Chechen Republic of Russia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 79

Whereas, A formal complaint has been filed with the International Criminal Court alleging horrific harms inflicted on gay men in the Chechen Republic of Russia. The complaint cites abuses stemming from both governmental actions as well as so-called “honor killings” by members of the men’s own families; and

Whereas, The Chechen Republic of Russia has denied that any abuses have occurred, and have further denied that gay men exist within the Chechen Republic. Russia has begun an internal investigation into the alleged abuses; and

Whereas, Every human being has the right to life and to be free from bodily integrity abuses by their government. These basic human rights include the right to be free from torture and other forms of cruel and unusual punishment; and

Whereas, The International Criminal Court should not stand idly by if severe violations of basic human rights have in fact occurred against residents of one of its member nations. The International Criminal Court has the authority to open an official investigation into the alleged violations occurring in the Chechen Republic of Russia: Now, therefore, be it