

REVISION TO ALLOCATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS—Continued

(Pursuant to Section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and Section 3001 of S. Con. Res. 3, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2017)

	\$ in millions	2017	2017–2021	2017–2026
Outlays		0	500	–6,000
Revised Allocation:				
Budget Authority		17,604	89,282	167,693
Outlays		15,841	90,320	177,421

REVISION TO ALLOCATION TO THE UNASSIGNED COMMITTEE

(Pursuant to Section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and Section 3001 of S. Con. Res. 3, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2017)

	\$ in millions	2017	2017–2021	2017–2026
Current Allocation:				
Budget Authority		–844,671	–4,649,869	–10,724,965
Outlays		–835,437	–4,608,689	–10,648,885
Adjustments:				
Budget Authority		–4,300	–364,900	–1,432,100
Outlays		–4,300	–364,900	–1,432,100
Revised Allocation:				
Budget Authority		–848,971	–5,014,769	–12,157,065
Outlays		–839,737	–4,973,589	–12,080,985

TRIBUTE TO SCOTT ALVAREZ

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today the Senator from Ohio and I wish to speak about Scott Alvarez, general counsel of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

Mr. Alvarez is retiring after a 36-year career with the Board of Governors, including the last 12 as general counsel.

He joined the board's legal division in 1981, immediately after graduating from Georgetown Law School, and worked as a staff attorney on bank regulatory issues for many years, until he was named general counsel in 2004.

In that role, he served as a key adviser to Chairmen Greenspan and Bernanke and Chair Yellen.

He was also general counsel of the Federal Open Market Committee, and he was the chief lawyer in carrying out some of the Fed's other roles, including overseeing the payments system and issuing currency.

I have enjoyed working with Mr. Alvarez over the years and have appreciated the insights and feedback he has provided to me and the Banking Committee.

On a personal note, his help was particularly valuable in 2006, when the Senate passed the Financial Services Regulatory Relief Act of 2006, which was then signed into law by President Bush.

I want to thank Mr. Alvarez for his assistance on that bill and others and for his service to the Federal Reserve and to the country.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I want to echo the comments of the senior Senator from Idaho, the chairman of the Banking Committee, and thank Mr. Alvarez for his service at the Federal Reserve.

I specifically want to thank him for his service during the financial crisis of 2008. Our country faced daunting challenges during that period, and the Federal Reserve and the government's response to the financial crisis was not an easy undertaking.

The crisis demanded great effort and ingenuity from many people. It required close coordination across the executive branch, the regulatory agencies, Congress, and the private sector. Working with key decisionmakers at

the board and throughout the government, Mr. Alvarez played an important role in developing and articulating the legal dimensions to virtually every initiative taken by the Federal Reserve to address the crisis.

Mr. Alvarez also worked closely with Congress during consideration of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act and played a crucial role in implementing rulemakings required of the Federal Reserve by Dodd-Frank. I am particularly grateful for the work he did to implement strong rules to increase the capital and leverage requirements for the Nation's largest banks—a necessary and critical step after the crisis—and the work that he did with my office in making one of the first substantive amendments to Dodd-Frank related to capital standards for insurance companies.

Scott Alvarez has served the Federal Reserve and the American people with great distinction and deserves thanks for a job well done.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DR. TEMPLE GRANDIN

• Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Dr. Temple Grandin's induction into the National Women's Hall of Fame. Dr. Grandin is an internationally recognized leader for her work in animal sciences and autism awareness. I would also like to wish Dr. Grandin a happy 70th birthday.

Dr. Grandin has contributed immensely to the study of animal sciences and the agriculture industry. She has been an esteemed college professor at Colorado State University for more than 20 years, and much of her research and inventions have become standard industry procedure, like humane cattle slaughter. She began her career in the early 1970s and was one of only a handful of women working in animal sciences. She paved the way for other women to thrive in this industry.

In addition to her professorship, Dr. Grandin has become a well-known ad-

vocate and spokeswoman for autism awareness. She has published countless books about living with autism and has been recognized on the Time Magazine's Top 100 Most Influential People under the "Heroes" category. She has received honorary doctorate degrees from 13 universities across the country and around the world. Dr. Grandin has also received numerous industry awards for her significant contributions to agriculture, as well as her advocacy for autism awareness.

Dr. Grandin has undoubtedly left a lasting impression on the animal sciences and autism advocacy. I congratulate her induction into the prestigious National Women's Hall of Fame and again wish Dr. Grandin a very happy birthday.●

TRIBUTE TO JAKOB HELLER

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize my nephew, Jakob Heller, on his upcoming achievement of becoming an Eagle Scout, one of the highest honors in the Boy Scouts. On August 2, 2017, Jakob officially becomes an Eagle Scout, which serves as a symbol of his dedication to the Scouts' mission of creating responsible, participating citizens and leaders.

In order to become an Eagle Scout, Jakob completed tests and earned merit badges that required mastering specific outdoor skills and providing services to his community. He also demonstrated a commitment to his team and the Boy Scout mission and oath.

Jakob comes from a military family, and like many military families, they are constantly on the move. Jakob's father served in the U.S. Navy, and after retirement, he moved his family to southern West Virginia where they have been living for the last 5 years. I am happy to note that, following his Eagle Scout ceremony, Jakob and his family will be moving to Carson City, NV, where his grandparents and extended family anxiously await his arrival.

Jakob is a talented young man who excels academically and participates in a number of extracurricular activities. In addition to his academic accomplishments, he is a gifted musician who

plays the trumpet in the marching band and the French horn in the school's concert band. He is also a member of the cross-country team and participates in track and field, where he shines in sprint relays, hurdle events, and the long jump. His ability to balance school, athletics, and Boy Scouts is truly remarkable.

Furthermore, Jakob is preparing for a future in computer programming. Like many kids his age, he loves playing video games and is interested in becoming a video game programmer. Additionally, he is part of his school's robotics club and programs robots to compete in challenging competitions. With such extensive experience at a young age, I am confident Jakob will have a bright future as a computer programmer.

Jakob is responsible and dependable and understands the importance of his family, friends, and community. Boy Scouts has had a positive impact on his life, and I know that he will serve as an excellent role model for other members of his family and friends.

In closing, I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in congratulating this new Nevada resident, my nephew Jakob Heller. I cannot be more proud of this young man, and I look forward to witnessing his many contributions to our community in the years ahead.●

TRIBUTE TO PAUL KASTER

• Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the distinguished accomplishment of Kansan Paul Kaster on the occasion of his 2017 National Federation of Independent Business, NFIB, Young Entrepreneur Award.

Mr. Kaster, of Leawood, KS, is the founder and owner of Crooked Branch Studio, which specializes in woodworking. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Paul on his outstanding achievements. I wish him nothing but the best for his future entrepreneurial and educational endeavors.●

MONROE COUNTY BICENTENNIAL

• Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, today I wish to pay special tribute to Monroe County, MI, which is celebrating its bicentennial this year.

Located on the shores of Lake Erie, Monroe County was founded on July 14, 1817. It is named in honor of President James Monroe, who visited the Michigan Territory in August 1817, shortly after the county's founding. The county has the proud distinction of being the second county founded in Michigan.

The people of Monroe are proud of their history. This history has inspired generations of hard-working and fiercely independent people who are committed to preserving their history, protecting their natural resources, and innovating for their future.

Monroe County is home to the River Raisin National Battlefield Park,

which commemorates the January 1813 battles of the War of 1812. The battles marked one of the greatest defeats for the United States during the war, and the rally cry, "Remember the Raisin" inspired support for the rest of the war. I was honored to help lead the effort in Congress with Congressman Dingell and Senator Levin to pass the legislation that made the park part of the National Park System. The park has now become an economic driver, attracting economic development to the surrounding area.

Monroe County is also home to La-Z-Boy Furniture, the inventors of the world's first reclining chair. The company was founded in 1927 and employs more than 6,300 people nationwide. The corporate headquarters is still based in Monroe.

One of the most famous Monroe County residents is General George Armstrong Custer, who spent much of his life in Monroe. One of the youngest Americans to ever be promoted to brigadier general, Custer is known for his successes during the Civil War and his death at the Battle of the Little Bighorn, also known as Custer's Last Stand.

As a leader of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I am especially proud of Monroe County's agricultural heritage. The county has over 270 historic farms—the most of any county in Michigan.

Numerous events and celebrations have been planned in the county throughout the year to mark this special milestone. Congratulations to Monroe County on 200 years of impressive history, growth, and success.●

TRIBUTE TO DEVIN MARTIN

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Devin Martin, one of my Washington, DC, interns, for all of the hard work he has done for me and my staff at the Senate Republican Conference.

Devin is a graduate of Huntley High School in Huntley, IL. Currently, he is attending the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, SD, where he is majoring in journalism and political science. Devin is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of his experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Devin Martin for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As 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.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:29 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. 282. An act to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to authorize spouses of servicemembers to elect the same residences as the servicemembers.

H.R. 1058. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the role of podiatrists in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1690. An act 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.

H.R. 1848. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on the use of medical scribes in Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2006. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the procurement practices of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2056. An act to amend the Small Business Act to provide for expanded participation in the microloan program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2333. An act to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to increase the amount of leverage made available to small business investment companies.

H.R. 2364. An act to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to increase the amount that certain banks and savings associations may invest in small business investment companies, subject to the approval of the appropriate Federal banking agency, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2749. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the oversight of contracts awarded by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2781. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to certify the sufficient participation of small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans and small business concerns owned by veterans with service-connected disabilities in contracts under the Federal Strategic Sourcing Initiative, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3218. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the Clerk of the House of Representatives request the Senate to return to the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 76) granting the consent and approval of Congress for the Commonwealth of Virginia, the State of Maryland, and the District of Columbia to enter into a compact relating to the establishment of the Washington Metro-rail Safety Commission.

At 5:34 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by