

Whereas the usage of antiretroviral drugs as prophylaxis can reduce the likelihood of mother-to-child transmission of HIV to less than 5 percent;

Whereas in 2005 only 14 percent of women received services for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission (referred to in this preamble as “PMTCT”);

Whereas in 2016, 76 percent of women received PMTCT services;

Whereas, since 2001, the number of children born HIV-positive has decreased by more than half;

Whereas, despite increased efforts by the United States and countries around the world, over 400 children were born HIV-positive each day in 2016;

Whereas 90 percent of children with HIV live in sub-Saharan Africa;

Whereas in 2016 only 43 percent of children with HIV received antiretroviral therapy, far below the percentage of adults receiving antiretroviral therapy;

Whereas, without treatment, half of children with HIV will die by their second birthday, and 80 percent by their fifth birthday;

Whereas, in 2016, 120,000 children died of causes related to acquired immune deficiency syndrome (referred to in this preamble as “AIDS”);

Whereas, in 2016, 22 percent of new HIV infections occurred in young women aged 15 to 24;

Whereas, in sub-Saharan Africa, young women account for 75 percent of new annual HIV infections among adolescents;

Whereas AIDS is a leading cause of death among adolescents globally;

Whereas research efforts at the National Institutes of Health have led to extraordinary breakthroughs for children infected with and at risk for HIV;

Whereas in 2002 the United States began investing in PMTCT services by establishing the United States International Mother and Child HIV Prevention Initiative;

Whereas, since 2002, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has supported programs that provided 4,200,000 HIV-positive mothers with antiretroviral drug prophylaxis for PMTCT;

Whereas in fiscal year 2016, the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (referred to in this preamble as “PEPFAR”) supported HIV testing and counseling for more than 11,500,000 pregnant women, and provided antiretroviral drug prophylaxis for PMTCT, allowing nearly 2,000,000 babies to be born free of HIV;

Whereas in 2014 PEPFAR announced the Accelerating Children's Treatment Initiative, a 2-year effort that would double the number of HIV-positive children receiving treatment in 10 high burden countries;

Whereas the PEPFAR DREAMS initiative is working to reduce new HIV infections in girls and young women in 10 sub-Saharan countries;

Whereas every mother should have the opportunity to fight for the life of her child; and

Whereas every child and adolescent should have access to medicine to lead a long and healthy life: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes that the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of human immunodeficiency virus (referred to in this resolving clause as “HIV”) is critical to stopping the spread of HIV worldwide;

(2) applauds the leadership of the United States for efforts to eliminate new pediatric HIV infections and to expand pediatric treatment through programs and research;

(3) recognizes that for more than 13 years, the fight to eliminate pediatric HIV worldwide has been a priority in the response of the United States to global acquired immune

deficiency syndrome (referred to in this resolving clause as “AIDS”), and calls on the leadership of the United States in this area to continue;

(4) supports providing adolescents with the evidence-based approaches necessary to prevent new HIV infections;

(5) supports providing women and children with HIV counseling and testing services where practicable, and scaling up access to services and medicines that prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV and ensure HIV-positive mothers survive and thrive;

(6) supports expanding treatment for HIV for children and adolescents, including providing greater access to more efficacious antiretroviral drug regimens, age appropriate services, and support for the caregivers of children and adolescents; and

(7) recommitts the United States—

(A) to lead the world to end AIDS;

(B) to eliminate new pediatric HIV infections worldwide; and

(C) to support women, children, adolescents, and families infected and affected by HIV.

SENATE RESOLUTION 311—HONORING THE PORTLAND THORNS FC AS THE CHAMPION OF THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S SOCCER LEAGUE IN 2017

Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 311

Whereas the Portland Thorns FC won the National Women's Soccer League (referred to in this preamble as the “NWSL”) Championship on October 14, 2017;

Whereas the Portland Thorns FC won the NWSL Championship, an event that has been held for 5 years, for the second time by defeating the North Carolina Courage by a score of 1 to 0;

Whereas Portland Thorns FC midfielder Lindsey Horan scored the only goal in the 2017 NWSL Championship and was named the Most Valuable Player of that Championship;

Whereas the head coach, Mark Parsons, and owner, Merritt Paulson, of the Portland Thorns FC won the NWSL Championship for the second time;

Whereas the Rose City Riveters and the fans of the Portland Thorns FC, who provide the Providence Park venue with spirit and pride, are the best fans in the NWSL;

Whereas the Portland Thorns FC holds the record for highest average game attendance in the NWSL in 2017 and has held that record in each year since the establishment of the NWSL in 2013;

Whereas the goalkeeper of the Portland Thorns FC, Adrianna Franch, was named the NWSL Goalkeeper of the Year for 2017;

Whereas the Portland Thorns FC adopted the official State motto of Oregon, “*Alis Volat Propriis*”, meaning “*She Flies with Her Own Wings*”, to capture the independent spirit of Oregon;

Whereas the Portland Thorns FC holds community service events to inspire and involve young women and men in the Portland community through science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and environmental education; and

Whereas the success of the Portland Thorns FC soccer team will broaden an appreciation of athletics in young people and encourage Oregonians to engage in their communities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the Portland Thorns FC as the 2017 champion of the National Women's Soccer League;

(2) recognizes the outstanding achievement of the players, ownership, and staff of the Portland Thorns FC; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Portland Thorns FC.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 28—PROVIDING FOR A CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF S. 782

Mr. CORNYN submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the resolution was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 28

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That in the enrollment of the bill S. 782, the Secretary of the Senate shall make the following corrections:

(1) In section 2, strike “42 U.S.C. 17601 et seq.” and insert “34 U.S.C. 21101 et seq.”.

(2) In section 2, strike “42 U.S.C. 17617(a)(10)” and insert “34 U.S.C. 21117(a)(10)”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have 9 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 26, 2017, at 10 a.m., in closed session to conduct a briefing on Niger.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 26, 2017, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Brian D. Montgomery, of Texas, Robert Hunter Kurtz, of Virginia, and Suzanne Israel Tufts, of New York, each to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 26, 2017, at 9:45 a.m., in room SD-366 to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 26, 2017, at 9:30 a.m. to hold a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 26, 2017, at 10 a.m., in room SD-430, to conduct a hearing entitled "Exploring Free Speech on College Campuses".

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 26, 2017, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 to conduct a hearing on S.807 and the following nominations: Allison H. Eid, of Colorado, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, Stephanos Bibas, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, Liles Clifton Burke, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama, Walter David Counts III, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas, Michael Joseph Juneau, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana, A. Marvin Quattlebaum, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina, Karen Gren Scholer, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas, Tilman Eugene Self III, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Georgia, and John F. Bash, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Texas, Erin Angela Nealy Cox, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Texas, and R. Andrew Murray, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina, all of the Department of Justice.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 26, 2017, at 11 a.m., in SR-428A to conduct a hearing entitled "Strengthening the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem for Women".

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 26, 2017, at 2 p.m., in room SH-219 to conduct a closed hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON REGULATORY AFFAIRS AND
FEDERAL MANAGEMENT

The Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 26, 2017, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "Improving Oversight of the Regulatory Process: Lessons from State Legislatures".

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my health policy fellow, Laura Knudtson, be granted

floor privileges for the remainder of this Congress.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 386.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Gregory Ibach, of Nebraska, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

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

If there is no further debate, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Ibach nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 413.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Daniel J. Kritenbrink, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

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

If there is no further debate, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Kritenbrink nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREE-
MENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 247, the nomination of John Gibson to be Deputy Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense. I further ask that there be 60 minutes of debate on the nomination, equally divided in the usual form, and that following the use or yielding back of time, the Senate vote on confirmation with no intervening action or debate, and that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session.

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

PROTECT OUR CHILDREN ACT OF
2017

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask that the Chair lay before the Senate the message to accompany S. 782.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 782) entitled "An Act to reauthorize the National Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program, and for other purposes," do pass with an amendment.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to concur in the House amendment, and I ask unanimous consent that the motion be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

PROVIDING FOR A CORRECTION IN
THE ENROLLMENT OF S. 782

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 28.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 28) providing for a correction in the enrollment of S. 782.