

The NIAAA's commitment to its mission and its efforts to provide developed leaders is inspiring. In acknowledgement of its success, the NIAAA became the first national association to be accredited by the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement in the post-secondary division. The NIAAA has also developed the only all-inclusive Professional Education Program and Certification Program for secondary school athletic administrators.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the NIAAA for their renowned administrators and for their dedication to America's youth. As one of Indiana's Senators, I am honored to represent the NIAAA and commend their commitment to responsible athletic administration.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:17 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. 1164. An act to condition assistance to the West Bank and Gaza on steps by the Palestinian Authority to end violence and terrorism against Israeli citizens.

H.R. 3317. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to increase the penalty for female genital mutilation, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3731. An act to provide overtime pay for employees of the United States Secret Service, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to clause 11 of rule I, the Speaker removes the gentleman from Oregon, Mr. Walden, as a conferee and appoints the gentleman from Michigan, Mr. Upton, to fill the vacancy thereon to the bill (H.R. 1) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to titles II and V of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 12:35 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 228. An act to amend the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes to integrate the employment, training, and related services from diverse Federal sources, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 3317. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to increase the penalty for female genital mutilation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 3731. An act to provide overtime pay for employees of the United States Secret

Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2192. A bill to strengthen border security, increase resources for enforcement of immigration laws, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 2199. A bill to authorize appropriations for border infrastructure construction, to provide conditional resident status to certain aliens, and to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to include grounds of inadmissibility and deportability for alien members of criminal gangs and cartels, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, December 6, 2017, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 371. An act to make technical changes and other improvements to the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. COLLINS, from the Special Committee on Aging:

Special Report entitled "America's Aging Workforce: Opportunities and Challenges" (Rept. No. 115-191).

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. GRASSLEY:

S. 2195. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide an Inspector General for the judicial branch, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MURPHY:

S. 2196. A bill to amend chapter 83 of title 41, United States Code (popularly referred to as the Buy American Act) and certain other laws with respect to certain waivers under those laws, to provide greater transparency regarding exceptions to domestic sourcing requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. BALDWIN:

S. 2197. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the credit for increasing research activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2198. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reinstate the financing for the Hazardous Substance Superfund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. FLAKE:

S. 2199. A bill to authorize appropriations for border infrastructure construction, to

provide conditional resident status to certain aliens, and to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to include grounds of inadmissibility and deportability for alien members of criminal gangs and cartels, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON):

S. 2200. A bill to reauthorize the National Integrated Drought Information System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. COONS:

S. 2201. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve college access and college completion for all students; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. NELSON, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. BLUNT):

S. 2202. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the National Transportation Safety Board, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. GRAHAM, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HEITKAMP, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 2203. A bill to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration; 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 Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. CORYN, Mr. CRUZ, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. Res. 349. A resolution commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the 2d Infantry Division; to the Committee on Armed Services.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 611

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 611, a bill to amend the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to meet the needs of homeless children, youth, and families, and honor the assessments and priorities of local communities.

S. 949

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 949, a bill to require the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to create a classification that more accurately reflects the vital role of wildland firefighters.

S. 950

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 950, a bill to correct problems pertaining to human resources for career and volunteer personnel engaged in wildland fire and structure fire.

S. 1203

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of

S. 1203, a bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a program under which the Administrator shall defer the designation of an area as a non-attainment area for purposes of the 8-hour ozone national ambient air quality standard if the area achieves and maintains certain standards under a voluntary early action compact plan.

S. 1514

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1514, a bill to amend certain Acts to reauthorize those Acts and to increase protections for wildlife, and for other purposes.

S. 1718

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1718, a bill to authorize the minting of a coin in honor of the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, and for other purposes.

S. 1746

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1746, a bill to require the Congressional Budget Office to make publicly available the fiscal and mathematical models, data, and other details of computations used in cost analysis and scoring.

S. 1870

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1870, a bill to amend the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 to secure urgent resources vital to Indian victims of crime, and for other purposes.

S. 1879

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1879, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under part B of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 1919

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1919, a bill to end the use of body-gripping traps in the National Wildlife Refuge System.

S. 1945

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1945, a bill to regulate large capacity ammunition feeding devices.

S. 1990

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1990, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the amounts payable by the Department of Veterans Affairs for dependency and in-

demnity compensation, to modify the requirements for dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain veterans rated totally disabled at the time of death, and for other purposes.

S. 2109

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2109, a bill to count revenues from military and veteran education programs toward the limit on Federal revenues that certain proprietary institutions of higher education are allowed to receive for purposes of section 487 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

S. 2155

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2155, a bill to promote economic growth, provide tailored regulatory relief, and enhance consumer protections, and for other purposes.

S. 2159

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2159, a bill to require covered harassment and covered discrimination awareness and prevention training for Members, officers, employees, interns, fellows, and detailees of Congress within 30 days of employment and annually thereafter, to require a biennial climate survey of Congress, to amend the enforcement process under the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights for covered harassment and covered discrimination complaints, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 2195. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide an Inspector General for the judicial branch, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, to help ensure that our Federal judicial system remains free of corruption, bias, and hypocrisy, today I rise to reintroduce the Judicial Transparency and Ethics Enhancement Act. This important bill would establish within the Judicial branch an Office of Inspector General to assist the Judiciary with its ethical obligations as well as to ensure taxpayer dollars are not lost to waste, fraud, or abuse. Ensuring a fair and independent judiciary is critical to our constitutional system of checks and balances.

During my many years in Congress, I've worked hard to strengthen the oversight role of Federal Inspectors General who serve as the first line of

defense against fraud, waste and abuse. The facts demonstrate that the institution of the Inspector General has been crucial in detecting, exposing and deterring problems within our government. In collaboration with whistleblowers, Inspectors General have been extremely effective in their efforts to expose and help correct these wrongs.

I've come to rely on IGs and whistleblowers to ensure that our tax dollars are spent according to the letter and spirit of the law. And when that doesn't happen, we in Congress need to know about it and take corrective action.

During the past fiscal year, Congress appropriated roughly \$7 billion in taxpayer dollars to support the Federal judiciary. Put in context, the Small Business Administration and the Corporation for National and Community Service each received less funding than the judiciary but both entities have an Office of Inspector General. If we in Congress believed that these entities could use an Inspector General, doesn't it make good sense that the Judiciary would deserve the same assistance?

Beyond fiduciary factors, the current practice of self-regulation of judges with respect to ethics and the judicial code of conduct has time and time again proven inadequate. In fact, in the past seven years, the Senate received articles of impeachment for not one but two Federal judges.

In the first case, former Judge Samuel B. Kent, although charged with multiple counts of sexual assault, pled guilty to obstruction of justice. It took a criminal investigation by the Department of Justice to uncover his false statements made to his colleagues who were assembled to investigate him as well as substantiate the horrendous claims made against him.

In the second case, you will recall that the Senate found former Judge G. Thomas Porteous, Jr. guilty on multiple articles of impeachment, including accepting money from attorneys who had a case pending before him in his court and committing perjury by falsifying his name on bankruptcy filings. This Judge's misbehavior came to light through a federal criminal investigation, after which another judicial committee had to be organized to investigate their fellow judge.

Moreover, in each case the disgraced judge tried to game the system in order to retain his \$174,000 salary. Rather than resign their commissions, each first tried to claim disability status that would allow each to continue to receive payment, even if in prison. Then both played chicken with Congress daring us to strip them of their pay by impeaching and convicting them. I am pleased that we put our foot down and said "No."

The Judicial Transparency and Ethics Enhancement Act would establish an Office of Inspector General for the judicial branch. The IG's responsibilities would include conducting investigations of possible judicial misconduct, investigating waste fraud and