

MCCAIN, Mrs. McCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCOTT, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to.:

S. RES. 421

Whereas on February 14, 2018, a mass shooting took place at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida;

Whereas the people of the United States mourn the 17 innocent lives that were lost at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in this unthinkable tragedy;

Whereas the people of the United States continue to pray for those who were wounded in the attack and continue to recover; and

Whereas the people of the United States are grateful for the quick action of first responders who cared for the injured: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the senseless attack at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, that took place on Wednesday, February 14, 2018;

(2) honors the memory of the victims that were killed;

(3) expresses hope for a full and speedy recovery and pledges continued support for people that were injured in the attack;

(4) offers heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathies to all of the students, teachers, administrators, and faculty of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, as well as the families, friends, and loved ones affected by the tragedy; and

(5) honors the selfless and dedicated service of—

(A) the teachers, school administrators, school support staff, medical professionals, and other individuals in the Broward County community;

(B) the emergency response teams and law enforcement officials who responded to the call of duty; and

(C) the law enforcement officials who continue to investigate the attack.

SENATE RESOLUTION 422—DESIGNATING MARCH 2, 2018, AS “READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY”

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. REED, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to.:

S. RES. 422

Whereas reading is a basic requirement for quality education and professional success and a source of pleasure throughout life;

Whereas the people of the United States must be able to read if the United States is to remain competitive in the global economy;

Whereas Congress has placed great emphasis on reading intervention and providing additional resources for reading assistance, including through the programs authorized under the Elementary and Secondary Edu-

cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) and through annual appropriations for library and literacy programs; and

Whereas more than 50 national organizations concerned about reading and education have joined with the National Education Association to designate March 2, the anniversary of the birth of Theodor Geisel (commonly known as “Dr. Seuss”), as a day to celebrate reading: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 2, 2018, as “Read Across America Day”;

(2) honors—

(A) all authors for their success in encouraging children to discover the joy of reading; and

(B) the 21st anniversary of Read Across America Day; and

(3) encourages—

(A) parents, educators, and communities to read with children for at least 30 minutes on Read Across America Day and promote a love of reading and opportunities for all children to see themselves reflected in literature in honor of the commitment of the Senate to building a country of readers; and

(B) the people of the United States to observe Read Across America Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 423—DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 28, 2018, AS “RARE DISEASE DAY”

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. BARASSO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. WARREN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. HATCH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 423

Whereas a rare disease or disorder is one that affects a small number of patients, which in the United States is considered to be a population of less than 200,000 individuals;

Whereas, as of February 2018, nearly 7,000 rare diseases affect approximately 30,000,000 people in the United States and their families;

Whereas children with rare diseases account for about half of the population affected by rare diseases in the United States;

Whereas many rare diseases are serious and life-threatening and lack effective treatments;

Whereas, as a result of the Orphan Drug Act (Public Law 97-414; 96 Stat. 2049), important advances have been made in the research and treatment of rare diseases;

Whereas the Food and Drug Administration has made great strides in gathering patient perspectives to inform the drug review process as part of the Patient-Focused Drug Development program, an initiative that originated under the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act (Public Law 112-144; 126 Stat. 993);

Whereas, although more than 600 drugs and biological products have been approved by the Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of rare diseases, millions of people in the United States have a rare disease for which there is no approved treatment;

Whereas lack of access to effective treatments and difficulty in obtaining reimbursement for life-altering, and even life-saving, treatments still remain significant challenges for people with rare diseases and their families;

Whereas rare diseases and conditions include aplastic anemia, porphyria, spina bifida, stiff person syndrome, Gaucher dis-

ease, diffuse pulmonary lymphangiomatosis, adrenoleukodystrophy, Noonan syndrome, Rett syndrome, Moebius syndrome, Castleman Disease, epidermolytic ichthyosis, and short bowel syndrome;

Whereas people with rare diseases experience challenges that include—

(1) difficulty in obtaining an accurate diagnosis;

(2) limited treatment options; and

(3) difficulty finding physicians or treatment centers with expertise in rare diseases;

Whereas the rare disease community gained important new tools during the 115th Congress with the enactment of the FDA Reauthorization Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-52; 131 Stat. 1005), which—

(1) advanced and facilitated the development and timely approval of drugs and biologics for rare diseases, including diseases affecting children;

(2) reauthorized user fees to help deliver safe and effective treatments to individuals with rare diseases;

(3) supported the utilization of real-world evidence;

(4) supported patient-focused drug development; and

(5) supported the National Evaluation System for Health Technology;

Whereas both the Food and Drug Administration and the National Institutes of Health have established special offices to support and facilitate rare disease research and treatments;

Whereas the National Organization for Rare Disorders (referred to as “NORD” in this preamble), a nonprofit organization established in 1983 to provide services to and advocate on behalf of patients with rare diseases, remains a critical public voice for people with rare diseases;

Whereas 2018 marks the 35th anniversary of the enactment of the Orphan Drug Act and the establishment of NORD;

Whereas NORD sponsors Rare Disease Day in the United States and partners with many other major rare disease organizations to increase public awareness of rare diseases;

Whereas Rare Disease Day is observed each year on the last day of February;

Whereas Rare Disease Day is a global event that was first observed in the United States on February 28, 2009, and observed in more than 94 countries in 2017; and

Whereas Rare Disease Day is expected to be observed globally for years to come, providing hope and information for rare disease patients around the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates February 28, 2018, as “Rare Disease Day”;

(2) recognizes the importance of improving awareness and encouraging accurate and early diagnosis of rare diseases and disorders; and

(3) supports a national and global commitment to improving access to and developing new treatments, diagnostics, and cures for rare diseases and disorders.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I have 11 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, March 1, 2018, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Lieutenant General Paul M. Nakasone, USA, to be general and Director, National Security Agency/Chief, Central Security Service/Commander, United States Cyber Command, Department of Defense, and Brent K. Park, of Tennessee, to be Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, National Nuclear Security Administration, and Anne Marie White, of Michigan, to be an Assistant Secretary (Environmental Management), both of the Department of Energy.

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, March 1, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "The Semiannual monetary policy report to the Congress."

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 1, 2018, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Implementation of Positive Train Control."

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, March 1, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 1, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "The Administration's Framework for Rebuilding Infrastructure in America."

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 1, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Robert Frank Pence, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Finland, and Trevor D. Traina, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Austria, both of the Department of State, and Judy Lynn Shelton, of Virginia, to be United States Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

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, March 1, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nomination: John F. Ring, of the District of Columbia, to be a Mem-

ber of the National Labor Relations Board.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 1, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Joel M. Carson III, of New Mexico, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, Colm F. Connolly, and Maryellen Noreika, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of Delaware, William F. Jung, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, Ryan T. Holte, of Ohio, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims, Jonathan F. Mitchell, of Washington, to be Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States, and Billy J. Williams, to be United States Attorney for the District of Oregon, Mark S. James, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of Missouri, Daniel C. Mosteller, to be United States Marshal for the District of South Dakota, and Jesse Seroyer, Jr., to be United States Marshal for the Middle District of Alabama, all of the Department of Justice.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 1, 2018, at 2 p.m., to conduct a closed business meeting followed by a closed briefing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 1, 2018, at 2 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

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, March 1, 2018 at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "Examining Federal Managers' Roles in Hiring."

RURAL WIRELESS ACCESS ACT OF 2017

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 305, S. 1621.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1621) to require the Federal Communications Commission to establish a methodology for the collection by the Commission of information about commercial mobile service and commercial mobile data service, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 1621) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1621

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Rural Wireless Access Act of 2017".

SEC. 2. METHODOLOGY FOR COLLECTION OF MOBILE SERVICE COVERAGE DATA.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term "commercial mobile data service" has the meaning given the term in section 6001 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1401);

(2) the term "commercial mobile service" has the meaning given the term in section 332(d) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 332(d));

(3) the term "Commission" means the Federal Communications Commission;

(4) the term "coverage data" means, if commercial mobile service or commercial mobile data service is available, information about the service, which may include available speed tiers and performance characteristics; and

(5) the term "Universal Service program" means the universal service support mechanisms established under section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 254) and the regulations issued under that section.

(b) METHODOLOGY ESTABLISHED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall promulgate regulations to establish a methodology that shall apply to the collection of coverage data by the Commission for the purposes of—

(1) the Universal Service program; or

(2) any other similar program.

(c) REQUIREMENTS.—The methodology established under subsection (b) shall—

(1) contain standard definitions for different speed tiers, such as the 2G, 3G, 4G, and 4G LTE tiers;

(2) ensure that coverage data is collected in a consistent and robust way;

(3) improve the validity and reliability of coverage data; and

(4) increase the efficiency of coverage data collection.

PROVIDING FOR A CONSISTENT ELIGIBILITY DATE FOR PROVISION OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEMORIAL HEADSTONES AND MARKERS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3656 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3656) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a consistent eligibility date for provision of Department of Veterans Affairs memorial headstones and markers for eligible spouses and dependent children of veterans whose remains are unavailable.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.