

EC-4572. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a semiannual report detailing telecommunications-related payments made to Cuba pursuant to Department of the Treasury licenses; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4573. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Food Additives Permitted in Feed and Drinking Water of Animals; Silicon Dioxide as a Carrier for Flavors" ((21 CFR Part 573) (Docket No. FDA-2017-F-5528)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 12, 2018; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4574. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department's activities under the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act during fiscal year 2017; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4575. A communication from the Acting Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department's activities under the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act during fiscal year 2017; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4576. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) for two reports entitled "2017 Annual Report of the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts" and "Judicial Business of the United States Courts"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4577. A communication from the Impact Analyst, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Amendments" (RIN2900-AQ22) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 9, 2018; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-4578. A communication from the Impact Analyst, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Reimbursement of qualifying adoption expenses for certain veterans" (RIN2900-AQ01) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 9, 2018; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

## 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-181. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislative Assembly of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico requesting the United States Congress to extend the unemployment and the Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) benefits for an additional twenty-six (26) weeks, due to the catastrophic impact of Hurricanes Maria and Irma on Puerto Rico; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

### CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 50 STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

Only two weeks after Hurricane Irma hit the Island, on September 20th, 2017, Hurri-

cane Maria struck Puerto Rico. The eye of this Category 4 hurricane made landfall in the municipality of Yabucoa.

Puerto Rico suffered damages estimated in at least ninety billion dollars (\$90,000,000,000), and a never-before-seen devastation. The power grid as well as the telecommunications and drinking water systems were down. One month after landfall, a mere eighteen percent (18%) of the population had power service, fifty-nine percent (59%) had telecommunications service, and seventy-three percent (73%) had drinking water service.

Many businesses have been unable to operate due to the lack of these services. Consequently, a significant number of employees have lost their jobs or their work hours have been reduced considerably.

Through a contribution based on a percentage of payroll expenses, employers participate in a program where job-seeking unemployed persons are able to receive financial assistance and labor advisory from the Government.

Workers who have been wrongfully discharged may receive the following benefits:

Unemployment compensation equivalent to a percentage of the salary earned up to one hundred thirty-three dollars (\$133.00) a week. Such compensation may be extended for an additional twenty-six (26) weeks, if eligible.

Job search assistance through their job center locations.

Furthermore, the Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) is available for employed and self-employed persons who have been determined not otherwise eligible for regular unemployment insurance benefits. This program provides unemployment benefits to individuals who have become unemployed as a direct result of a major disaster. Just as the unemployment benefit, this assistance is available for twenty-six (26) weeks.

Hurricanes Irma and Maria have had a major impact on the economy. Countless Puerto Ricans have lost their jobs, either temporarily or permanently. The lines at the regional offices of the Department of Labor are endless.

Moreover, it has been estimated that more than sixty thousand (60,000) Puerto Ricans have left the Island over the thirty (30) days following Hurricane Maria, forty thousand (40,000) of which have relocated to Florida.

If the U.S. Congress approves the unemployment benefit extension it will greatly contribute to the recovery of the People of Puerto Rico and prevent many others from making the difficult decision of moving from Puerto Rico.

This is not the first time that such a request is made. The U.S. Congress approved a similar extension in 2006 after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita struck Louisiana and Texas, respectively.

For all of the foregoing, this Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico deems it meritorious to request the Congress of the United States of America to extend the unemployment and the Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) benefits for an additional twenty-six (26) weeks, due to the catastrophic impact of Hurricanes Maria and Irma on Puerto Rico.

*Be it resolved by the Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico:*

Section 1.—To request the Congress of the United States of America to extend the unemployment and the Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) benefits for an additional twenty-six (26) weeks, due to the catastrophic impact of Hurricanes Maria and Irma on Puerto Rico.

Section 2.—It is hereby directed that a copy of this Concurrent Resolution, translated into English, be delivered to the lead-

ership of the Congress of the United States of America, including the Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico in Washington, D.C., the President of the United States of America, and the U.S. Secretary of Labor.

Section 3.—This Concurrent Resolution shall take effect upon its approval.

POM-182. A joint resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado relative to the fiftieth anniversary of the capture of the U.S.S. Pueblo by North Korea; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 18-1004

Whereas, The U.S.S. Pueblo was originally launched as a United States Army cargo ship in 1944 but was transferred to the United States Navy and renamed the U.S.S. Pueblo in 1966; and

Whereas, The U.S.S. Pueblo was named for the city of Pueblo, Colorado, and the county of Pueblo, Colorado, and was the third ship in the naval fleet to bear the name Pueblo; and

Whereas, After leaving Japan in early January 1968 on an intelligence mission, the U.S.S. Pueblo was attacked by the North Korean military on January 23, 1968; and

Whereas, According to United States Naval authorities and the crew of the U.S.S. Pueblo, the ship was in international waters at the time of the attack; and

Whereas, One crew member of the U.S.S. Pueblo was killed during the attack, and eighty crew members and two civilian oceanographers were captured and held for eleven months by the North Korean government; and

Whereas, This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of North Korea's attack on the U.S.S. Pueblo and her crew; and

Whereas, The U.S.S. Pueblo is still in commission in the United States Navy but continues to be held by the North Korean government and is currently a museum in Pyongyang, North Korea; Now, therefore; and be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-first General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:*

(1) That we, the members of the General Assembly, recognize the bravery and sacrifice of the crew of the U.S.S. Pueblo;

(2) That we take pride in the fact that the U.S.S. Pueblo bears the name of a city and a county in Colorado, and, therefore, the citizens of Colorado should be aware of the incident that occurred with the U.S.S. Pueblo fifty years ago;

(3) That we continue the call for Kim Jong Un and the North Korean government to return the U.S.S. Pueblo to the people of the United States; and

(4) That we hereby designate January 23 each year as "U.S.S. Pueblo Day" as a day to remember and honor the brave crew of the U.S.S. Pueblo; and be it further

*Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to President Donald J. Trump, Governor John W. Hickenlooper, President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate Orrin Hatch, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives Paul D. Ryan, and the members of Colorado's Congressional delegation.*

POM-183. A resolution adopted by the Common Council of the City of Syracuse, New York urging the federal government to pass legislation in support of a national revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend in order to help slow climate change; to the Committee on Finance.

### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. ALEXANDER for the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

\*Mark Schneider, of the District of Columbia, to be Director of the Institute of Education Science, Department of Education for a term of six years.

\*Frank T. Brogan, of Pennsylvania, to be Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education.

\*Marco M. Rajkovich, Jr., of Kentucky, to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission for a term of six years expiring August 30, 2022.

\*John F. Ring, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring December 16, 2022.

By Mr. RISCH for the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Hannibal Ware, of the Virgin Islands, to be Inspector General, Small Business Administration.

\*David Christian Tryon, of Ohio, to be Chief Counsel for Advocacy, Small Business Administration.

\*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

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 Ms. WARREN:

S. 2544. A bill to stop financial institution crime, require certain officers of companies to certify that they have conducted due diligence relating to criminal conduct or civil fraud, create accountability in deferred prosecution agreements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself, Mr. UDALL, Mr. TESTER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. WARREN, and Ms. HEITKAMP):

S. 2545. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize a special behavioral health program for Indians; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2546. A bill to provide grants to States to encourage the implementation and maintenance of firearms licensing requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 2547. A bill to provide assistance for educational facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. HELLER (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 2548. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish mental health care to certain former members of the Armed Forces who are not otherwise eligible to receive such care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 2549. A bill to designate the United States Postal Service located at 1234 Saint Johns Place in Brooklyn, New York, as the

"Major Robert Odell Owens Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 2550. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 99 Macombs Place in New York, New York, as the "Tuskegee Airman Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 2551. A bill to modernize United States international food assistance programs made available through the Food for Peace Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. PERDUE):

S. 2552. A bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to increase the maximum amounts of Farm Service Agency loans for years in which those maximum amounts are insufficient to satisfy demand, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. MCCASKILL, and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. 2553. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to prohibit health plans and pharmacy benefit managers from restricting pharmacies from informing individuals regarding the prices for certain drugs and biologicals; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 2554. A bill to ensure that health insurance issuers and group health plans do not prohibit pharmacy providers from providing certain information to enrollees; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 2555. A bill to amend the Agricultural Act of 2014 to establish the Dairy Farm Sustainability Price Loss Coverage Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WICKER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. REED, Mr. HATCH, Ms. WARREN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. TESTER, Ms. SMITH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. KING):

S. Res. 434. A resolution recognizing the contributions of AmeriCorps members and alumni to the lives of the people of the United States; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. WICKER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MURPHY, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. Res. 435. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the 85th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933, known as the Holodomor, should serve as a reminder of repressive Soviet policies against the people of Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. Res. 436. A resolution recognizing the Girl Scouts of the United States of America on its 106th birthday and affirming the importance of leadership development for girls; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 384

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 384, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the new markets tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 455

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 455, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to count resident time spent in a critical access hospital as resident time spent in a nonprovider setting for purposes of making Medicare direct and indirect graduate medical education payments.

S. 720

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 720, a bill to amend the Export Administration Act of 1979 to include in the prohibitions on boycotts against allies of the United States boycotts fostered by international governmental organizations against Israel and to direct the Export-Import Bank of the United States to oppose boycotts against Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 833

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 833, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand health care and benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs for military sexual trauma, and for other purposes.

S. 1084

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1084, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to require that the Director of the Bureau of Prisons ensure that each chief executive officer of a Federal penal or correctional institution provides a secure storage area located outside of the secure perimeter of the Federal penal or correctional institution for firearms carried by certain employees of the Bureau of Prisons, and for other purposes.

S. 1301

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the names of the Senator from Minnesota