

DACA and calling upon the United States Congress to take affirmative steps to develop a bipartisan pathway to citizenship for DREAMERS; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-198. A resolution adopted by the City Council of New Orleans, Louisiana, memorializing its opposition to H.R. 38, the “Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2017,” S. 446, the “Constitutional Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2017,” and any other attempts to undermine Louisiana state laws; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment:

H.R. 2229. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide permanent authority for judicial review of certain Merit Systems Protection Board decisions relating to whistleblowers, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-229).

#### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. GRASSLEY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Jill Aiko Otake, of Hawaii, to be United States District Judge for the District of Hawaii.

Timothy A. Garrison, of Missouri, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri for the term of four years.

Kenji M. Price, of Hawaii, to be United States Attorney for the District of Hawaii for the term of four years.

John Cary Bittick, of Georgia, to be United States Marshal for the Middle District of Georgia for the term of four years.

David L. Lyons, of Georgia, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Georgia for the term of four years.

Rodney D. Ostermiller, of Montana, to be United States Marshal for the District of Montana for the term of four years.

(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 Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 2653. A bill to create a poverty relief benefit under title II of the Social Security Act for eligible individuals; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. SMITH:

S. 2654. A bill to amend the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 to establish the Community Connect Grant Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mrs. McCASKILL):

S. 2655. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to promote hydropower development at existing nonpowered dams, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2656. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to report biennially on actions taken to address areas of concerns that led to the inclusion of veterans health care in the High Risk List of the Government Accountability Office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

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

S. 2657. A bill to amend title V of the Public Health Service Act to establish a grant program to create peer support recovery networks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 2658. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for systematic data collection, analysis, and epidemiological research regarding neonatal abstinence syndrome; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. HASAN, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. BALDWIN, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2659. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to authorize employees of hospice programs to handle controlled substances in the residences of certain hospice patients to assist in disposal of those controlled substances; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. YOUNG:

S. 2660. A bill to require Federal agencies not performing security functions to relocate throughout the United States by the beginning of fiscal year 2030; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. HASAN, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2661. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to allow hospice providers to dispose of leftover prescription medications, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 2662. A bill to provide for a grant program for handgun licensing programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 2663. A bill to modify and improve provisions relating to environmental requirements for agriculture and agricultural producers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. TILLIS, and Ms. HARRIS):

S. 2664. A bill to reform the GEAR UP program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. DONNELLY):

S. 2665. A bill to require guidance on how the Food and Drug Administration will consider claims of opioid sparing and on the conditions under which the Food and Drug Administration will consider misuse and abuse of drugs in making certain determinations of safety; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 2666. A bill to improve assistance provided by the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership to small manufacturers in the defense industrial supply chain on matters relating to cybersecurity, and for other

purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. McCONNELL (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. PAUL):

S. 2667. A bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to provide for State and Tribal regulation of hemp production, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. BURR (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 2668. A bill to require a pilot program on the earning by special operations forces medics of credits towards a physician assistant degree; to the Committee on Armed Services.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. COLLINS, and Ms. WARREN):

S. Res. 460. A resolution condemning Boko Haram and calling on the Governments of the United States of America and Nigeria to swiftly implement measures to defeat the terrorist organization; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Mrs. McCASKILL):

S. Res. 461. A resolution commending the University of Central Missouri Jennies for winning the national championship in the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II tournament; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. UDALL (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. HEITKAMP, Ms. WARREN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. KING, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BROWN, Ms. HASAN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. Res. 462. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Public Health Week; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN (for Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. Res. 463. A resolution authorizing a Senator to bring a young son or daughter of the Senator onto the floor of the Senate during votes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 661

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 661, a bill to assist entrepreneurs, support development of the creative economy, and encourage international cultural exchange, and for other purposes.

S. 814

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 814, a bill to require that States receiving Byrne JAG funds to require sensitivity training for law enforcement officers of that State and to incentivize States to enact laws requiring the independent investigation and prosecution of the use of deadly force by law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

S. 915

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms.

DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 915, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 974

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 974, a bill to promote competition in the market for drugs and biological products by facilitating the timely entry of lower-cost generic and biosimilar versions of those drugs and biological products.

S. 1086

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1086, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to remove the prohibition on eligibility for TRICARE Reserve Select of members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who are eligible to enroll in a health benefits plan under chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code.

S. 1121

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1121, a bill to establish a postsecondary student data system.

S. 1572

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1572, a bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to provide that extraction of helium from gas produced under a Federal mineral lease shall maintain the lease as if the helium were oil and gas.

S. 2105

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2105, a bill to modify the presumption of service connection for veterans who were exposed to herbicide agents while serving in the Armed Forces in Thailand during the Vietnam era, and for other purposes.

S. 2128

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2128, a bill to improve the coordination and use of geospatial data.

S. 2269

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2269, a bill to reauthorize the Global Food Security Act of 2016 for 5 additional years.

S. 2506

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2506, a bill to establish an aviation maintenance workforce development pilot program.

S. 2580

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2580, a bill to amend title 13, United States Code, to make clear that each decennial census, as required for the apportionment of Representatives in Congress among the several States, shall tabulate the total number of persons in each State, and to provide that no information regarding United States citizenship or immigration status may be elicited in any such census.

S. 2607

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2607, a bill to provide family members of an individual who they fear is a danger to himself, herself, or others, or law enforcement, with new tools to prevent gun violence.

S. 2652

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2652, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Stephen Michael Gleason.

S.J. RES. 39

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. McCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 39, a joint resolution proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

S. RES. 435

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, his name was added as a cosponsor of 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.

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 435, *supra*.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 2653. A bill to create a poverty relief benefit under title II of the Social Security Act for eligible individuals; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, every day, Social Security provides vital benefits to millions of Americans who worked and paid into the system, and I cannot overstate the important anti-poverty role that the program plays. Supplemental Security Income or SSI is the safety net of last resort for individuals who have not worked enough to qualify for Social Security. Even with these critical income support programs, more and more seniors and people with disabilities find themselves struggling to keep up with the costs of the things they need just to get by.

Although Social Security and SSI automatically increase each year when there is an increase in the cost of living, over time those increases do not allow beneficiaries to maintain their standard of living. Because Social Security provides an increasingly larger share of the elderly's income as they age, even a slight decrease in value of these lifeline benefits can lead to poverty and hardship. Too many seniors are walking on an economic tightrope, balancing their food bill against their rent against their utility bill. It's time to update Social Security's guarantee of a secure retirement, and this bill is a landmark step towards accomplishing that goal. I'm particularly hopeful about the benefits this bill will have for older American women, who live longer and often have less retirement savings.

To help combat the risk of poverty among the most vulnerable receiving Social Security and SSI, I, along with Senators BROWN and CASEY, are introducing the Elder Poverty Relief Act. This bill creates a monthly Poverty Relief Benefit for almost everyone over age 82, individuals who have been relying on Social Security or SSI for a long time, or who have worked in low-paying jobs and receive a very small Social Security benefit. The Poverty Relief benefit will also go to seniors who receive only SSI. If enacted, in 2019, the Poverty Relief Benefit would provide an additional \$85 a month to almost 14 million people. The Poverty Relief Benefit will grow by roughly 4 percent each year. SSA estimates that the enactment of the Poverty Relief Benefit would reduce poverty among seniors who received the benefit by almost 25 percent in 2030 which would lift 420,000 seniors out of poverty. Notably, the enactment of the Poverty Relief Benefit would not accelerate the depletion year of the Social Security trust funds. The bill has been endorsed by the Gray Panthers, Justice in Aging, the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, Social Security Works, and the Strengthen Social Security Coalition.

For most seniors, Social Security is the only income they will receive that's guaranteed to last as long as they live. But despite these important benefits, poverty among seniors grows—with some studies showing the poverty rate among the very old is between 12 and 19 percent. We simply must do more to protect the financial stability of our elderly friends, neighbors, and relatives and enactment of the Poverty Relief Benefit would help reduce poverty among America's seniors. These are workers who sent a chunk of every paycheck to the Federal government with the understanding that they'd be getting it back in their later year when they needed it most. We must do right by them.

Mr. President: I ask unanimous consent that a letter from the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare be inserted into the