

transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2017 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5942. A communication from the Director of the Peace Corps, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report for the period of October 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. 1459. A bill to establish Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie National Park in the State of South Carolina, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-295).

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment and an amendment to the title:

S. 1646. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of President Station in Baltimore, Maryland, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-296).

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment:

H.R. 2786. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act with respect to the criteria and process to qualify as a qualifying conduit hydropower facility (Rept. No. 115-297).

By Mr. BURR, from the Select Committee on Intelligence:

Report to accompany S. 3153, An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2018 and 2019 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-298).

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, for the Committee on Foreign Relations I report favorably the following nomination list which was printed in the RECORD on the date indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that this nomination lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

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

*Foreign Service nomination of Jason Alexander.

*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.

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. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3192. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to update and modernize the reporting requirements for contaminants, including lead, in drinking water, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 3193. A bill to limit the establishment or extension of national monuments in the State of Utah; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. NELSON, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. SMITH, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. UDALL, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. REED, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 3194. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to cap prescription drug cost-sharing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. 3195. A bill to encourage greater community accountability of law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Mr. UDALL, Mr. COONS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. BURR):

S. 3196. A bill to defend economic livelihoods and threatened animals in the greater Okavango River Basin, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 3197. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to promote retirement savings on behalf of small business employees by making improvements to SIMPLE retirement accounts and easing the transition from a SIMPLE plan to a 401(k) plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 3198. A bill to require annual reports on allied contributions to the common defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. HELLER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. DAINES, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. LEE):

S. Res. 572. A resolution supporting the officers and personnel who carry out the important mission of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 539

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NEL-

SON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 539, a bill to designate the area between the intersections of 16th Street, Northwest and Fuller Street, Northwest and 16th Street, Northwest and Euclid Street, Northwest in Washington, District of Columbia, as "Oswaldo Paya Way".

S. 684

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 684, a bill to establish a national, research-based, and comprehensive home study assessment process for the evaluation of prospective foster parents and adoptive parents and provide funding to States and Indian tribes to adopt such process.

S. 1121

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

S. 1278

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1278, a bill to provide for the admission of the State of Washington, D.C. into the Union.

S. 1308

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 1308, a bill to increase authorized funding for the Soo Locks.

S. 1503

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1503, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of the 60th anniversary of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

S. 1933

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1933, a bill to focus limited Federal resources on the most serious offenders.

S. 2037

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2037, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 regarding proprietary institutions of higher education in order to protect students and taxpayers.

S. 2101

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2101, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the crew of the USS Indianapolis, in recognition of their perseverance, bravery, and service to the United States.

S. 2109

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota

(Ms. SMITH) 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. 2406

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2406, a bill to advance cutting-edge research initiatives of the National Institutes of Health.

S. 2490

At the request of Mr. SCOTT, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2490, a bill to amend the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 to modify requirements related to mortgage disclosures.

S. 2835

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2835, a bill to require a study of the well-being of the newsprint and publishing industry in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2845

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2845, a bill to provide collective bargaining rights for public safety officers employed by States or their political subdivisions.

S. 2946

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2946, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to clarify the meaning of the terms “act of war” and “blocked asset”, and for other purposes.

S. 3063

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3063, a bill to delay the reimposition of the annual fee on health insurance providers until after 2020.

S. 3125

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3125, a bill to modify the H-2B nonimmigrant returning worker exemption.

S. 3172

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3172, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish, fund, and provide for the use of amounts in a National Park Service Legacy Restoration Fund to address

the maintenance backlog of the National Park Service, and for other purposes.

S. 3178

At the request of Ms. HARRIS, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3178, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to specify lynching as a deprivation of civil rights, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 61

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 61, a resolution calling on the Department of Defense, other elements of the Federal Government, and foreign governments to intensify efforts to investigate, recover, and identify all missing and unaccounted-for personnel of the United States.

S. RES. 525

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 525, a resolution designating September 2018 as National Democracy Month as a time to reflect on the contributions of the system of government of the United States to a more free and stable world.

S. RES. 557

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 557, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the strategic importance of NATO to the collective security of the transatlantic region and urging its member states to work together at the upcoming summit to strengthen the alliance.

AMENDMENT NO. 3393

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3393 intended to be proposed to H.R. 8, a bill to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 3197. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to promote retirement savings on behalf of small business employees by making improvements to SIMPLE retirement accounts and easing the transition from a SIMPLE plan to a 401(k) plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, Ensuring that more Americans are better prepared financially for retirement is one of my top priorities.

That is why I rise today to introduce the SIMPLE Plan Modernization Act with my colleague from Virginia, Senator MARK WARNER. Our legislation will provide greater flexibility and ac-

cess to both employees and their employers seeking to utilize the popular SIMPLE plans as an option for saving for retirement.

According to the non-partisan Center for Retirement Research, there is an estimated \$7.7 trillion gap between the savings American households need to maintain their standard of living in retirement and what they actually have. A recent Gallup poll found that only 51 percent of working Americans believe that they will have enough money to live comfortably in retirement. Though this is the highest percentage of confidence in nearly a decade, we must continue to work to ensure that even more Americans will have the resources they need to enjoy their “golden years.”

Another contributing factor is that employees of small businesses are much less likely to participate in employer-based retirement plans. According to a study by the PEW Charitable Trusts, roughly 30 million U.S. private-sector full-time workers continue to lack access to a work-based plan to save for retirement.

SIMPLE retirement plans were established in 1996 to encourage small businesses to provide their employees with retirement plans that are less costly and easier to navigate. A business with 100 or fewer employees can create a SIMPLE retirement savings account so long as it does not offer another employer-sponsored retirement plan.

The SIMPLE Plan Modernization Act would help to expand access to SIMPLE plans by increasing the contribution limit for most small businesses. This would achieve two important goals, Mr. President: first, it would encourage more small businesses to offer a retirement savings benefit to their employees; and second, it would allow employees of small businesses to save even more for retirement each year on a tax-deferred basis.

This legislation is a win-win proposition for retirement security. There are many small employers that simply cannot afford a 401(k) plan. For them, this legislation would provide enhanced savings opportunities. At the same time, the legislation is carefully constructed to prevent employers with a 401(k) plan from dropping that plan to adopt a SIMPLE plan. And the legislation preserves strong incentives for small businesses that become more successful to move from a SIMPLE plan to a 401(k) plan. We believe our approach will encourage businesses and their employees to take steps to save for retirement, and eventually move towards a more substantial retirement package, like a 401(k) plan.

In my home state of Maine, the vast majority of businesses are eligible to sign their employees up for SIMPLE Plans. Financial advisors from Presque Isle to Portland have shared their concerns that neither employees nor their employers are in a good position to save for retirement. We must give