

Services I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

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

Air Force nominations beginning with Sarah E. Abel and ending with Michelle E. Wyche, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 14, 2017.

Air Force nominations beginning with Brett L. Hedgepeth and ending with Ryan M. Yi, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 11, 2017.

Air Force nominations beginning with Joanna K. Kowalik and ending with Mahasin M. Hangalay, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 11, 2017.

Air Force nominations beginning with Trish M. Arno and ending with Christopher N. White, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 8, 2018.

Air Force nominations beginning with Jin Hwa Lee Frazier and ending with Jack David Spencer, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 18, 2018.

Air Force nominations beginning with Corey L. Anderson and ending with Robert K. Talton, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 18, 2018.

Air Force nomination of Michael C. Maine, to be Colonel.

Air Force nominations beginning with Melissa A. Day and ending with Roberta J. Stemem, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 18, 2018.

Air Force nominations beginning with Matthew M. Bird and ending with Paul Kelley Stroud, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 18, 2018.

Air Force nominations beginning with Holly L. Brewer and ending with Mario Tommasi, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 18, 2018.

Air Force nominations beginning with John G. Andrade and ending with Lawrence P. Wood, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 18, 2018.

Air Force nomination of Joshua M. Kovich, to be Colonel.

Air Force nominations beginning with David M. Dersch, Jr. and ending with Patrick J. Travers, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 18, 2018.

Air Force nominations beginning with Lance J. Kim and ending with Sonia W. S. Taoyi, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 18, 2018.

Air Force nomination of David L. Wells II, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Aleksandr Gutman, to be Major.

Army nomination of Robert L. Ozburn, to be Major.

Army nomination of Jocelyn A. Leventhal, to be Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Alyssa S. Adams and ending with Bradley O. Wood, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 18, 2018.

Army nominations beginning with Kenneth S. Katrosh and ending with Dolly R. Livingston, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 18, 2018.

Army nominations beginning with Joseph Kloiber and ending with Paul Navas III, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 18, 2018.

Army nomination of Erick C. Crews, to be Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Michael C. Bradwick and ending with Douglas S. Yoon, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 18, 2018.

Army nominations beginning with Zachary T. Busenbark and ending with Jaime A. Sanjuan Rubio, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 18, 2018.

Army nominations beginning with Gabby V. Canceran and ending with John P. Cross, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 18, 2018.

Army nomination of Adam T. Soto, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Philip J. Dacunto, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Lyle A. Ourada, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Sherry M. Kwon, to be Major.

Marine Corps nomination of Christopher N. Earley, to be Major.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with William Doctor, Jr. and ending with Scott E. Vasquez, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 18, 2018.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Paulo T. Alves and ending with Patrick J. Toal, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 18, 2018.

Marine Corps nomination of Henry W. Soukup, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Marine Corps nomination of William W. Inns III, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Marine Corps nomination of Craig A. Elliott, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Bill W. Brooks, Jr. and ending with Kyle L. Hollis, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 18, 2018.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Edward J. Abma and ending with Joseph A. Zimmermann, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 18, 2018.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Justin R. Anderson and ending with Michael D. Wilcox, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 18, 2018.

Marine Corps nomination of Steven P. Hulse, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Navy nominations beginning with Paul F. Magoulick and ending with Li Sung, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 14, 2017.

Navy nomination of Nicholas H. Steging, Jr., to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Jonathan S. Durham, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nominations beginning with Laura C. Gilstrap and ending with Diana Tranyu, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 11, 2017.

Navy nomination of Todd D. Husty, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Dawn M. Stankus, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Paul I. Ahn, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Allen G. Gunn, to be Lieutenant Commander.

(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. TESTER:

S. 2338. A bill to amend chapter 55 of title 5, United States Code, to reform the manner in which Border Patrol agents are compensated; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 2339. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 2340. A bill to establish the Federal Labor-Management Partnership Council; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 2341. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the processing of veterans benefits by the Department of Veterans Affairs, to limit the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to recover overpayments made by the Department and other amounts owed by veterans to the United States, to improve the due process accorded veterans with respect to such recovery, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. YOUNG:

S. 2342. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to create an innovation zone initiative, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 2343. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to establish a task force for meeting the connectivity and technology needs of precision agriculture in the United States; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. FLAKE):

S. 2344. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to authorize additional visas for well-educated aliens to live and work in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. HELLER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. HATCH):

S. 2345. A bill to amend the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 to provide additional resources to State and local prosecutors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 2346. A bill to establish an innovative water infrastructure workforce development program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 2347. A bill to amend the Securities Act of 1933 to expand the ability to use testing

the waters and confidential draft registration submissions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 2348. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to ensure reliable air service to American Samoa; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. SCOTT (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BURR, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. HATCH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. WICKER, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. Res. 381. A resolution designating the week of January 21 through January 27, 2018, as “National School Choice Week”; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DONNELLY (for himself, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. CASEY):

S. Res. 382. A resolution supporting the contributions of Catholic schools; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Ms. HARRIS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HEITKAMP, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. KING, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. NELSON):

S. Res. 383. A resolution expressing support for the designation of a “Women’s Health Research Day”; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 518

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 518, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide for technical assistance for small treatment works.

S. 545

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 545, a bill to preserve and protect the free choice of individual employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, or to refrain from such activities.

S. 786

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 786, a bill to establish a grant program relating to the prevention of student and student athlete opioid misuse.

S. 1361

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1361, a bill to amend title XVIII of the

Social Security Act to allow physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists to supervise cardiac, intensive cardiac, and pulmonary rehabilitation programs.

S. 1719

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1719, a bill to eliminate duties on imports of recreational performance outerwear, to establish the Sustainable Textile and Apparel Research Fund, and for other purposes.

S. 1922

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1922, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect paincapable unborn children, and for other purposes.

S. 2008

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2008, a bill to combat the opioid epidemic and drug sample backlogs.

S. 2065

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2065, a bill to establish a demonstration program to provide integrated care for Medicare beneficiaries with end-stage renal disease, and for other purposes.

S. 2121

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2121, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require reporting of certain data by providers and suppliers of air ambulance services for purposes of reforming reimbursements for such services under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 2174

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2174, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the Veterans Crisis Line.

S. 2311

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2311, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect paincapable unborn children, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 376

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 376, a resolution urging the Governments of Burma and Bangladesh to ensure the safe, dignified, voluntary, and sustainable return of the Rohingya refugees who have been displaced by the campaign of ethnic cleansing conducted by the Burmese military.

S. RES. 377

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 377, a resolution recognizing the importance of paying tribute to those individuals who have faithfully served and retired from the Armed Forces of the United States, designating April 18, 2018, as “Military Retiree Appreciation Day”, and encouraging the people of the United States to honor the past and continued service of military retirees to their local communities and the United States.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. FLAKE):

S. 2344. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to authorize additional visas for well-educated aliens to live and work in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the pressing need to reform our high-skilled immigration system. This is an issue I’ve championed for a number of years and one that becomes only more urgent with each passing season.

It is also an issue that I believe ties in directly with the recent discussions we have been having about merit-based immigration. As I said on the floor last week, high-skilled immigration is merit-based immigration. It is immigration targeted at the best, the brightest, and the most highly educated. It is immigration targeted at individuals who have the skills employers need. If we want to have a discussion about individuals who will add value to our economy, who will bring critical skills to the table, and who will help keep our country competitive, high-skilled immigration is what we should be talking about.

For years, we have had a system for bringing high-skilled workers from other countries to the United States to fill jobs for which there is a shortage of American labor. This system does not replace American jobs. Rather, it supplements our workforce with talent from other countries in industries where there are simply not enough qualified American workers to meet demand.

But the system is badly out of date. To begin with, it caps the number of high-skilled worker visas—also called H-1B visas—that employers can obtain each year at a number that is far below demand. This year, just like last year and the year before, USCIS reached the annual cap on H-1B visas within the first week that visa petitions could be submitted. In fact, during that single week, USCIS received over twice as many visa petitions as there were available visas.