

Whereas the week of January 28, 2018, to February 3, 2018, has been designated as National Catholic Schools Week by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and January 31, 2018, has been designated National Appreciation Day for Catholic Schools;

Whereas the National Catholic Schools Week was first established in 1974 and has been celebrated annually for the past 44 years;

Whereas while Catholic schools must work hard to maintain enrollment, the demand and enthusiasm for Catholic schools remains strong;

Whereas 30 percent of Catholic schools have waiting lists for admission and new schools are opening across the country; and

Whereas the theme for National Catholic Schools Week 2018 is Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals of National Catholic Schools Week, an event cosponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and established to recognize the vital contributions of the thousands of Catholic elementary and secondary schools in the United States;

(2) applauds the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops on their selection of a theme that all can celebrate; and

(3) supports the continued dedication of Catholic schools, students, parents, and teachers across the United States toward academic excellence, and supports the key role they play in promoting and ensuring a brighter, stronger future for the Nation.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1920. Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. BLUNT) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1873, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a program to establish peer specialists in patient aligned care teams at medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1920. Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. BLUNT) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1873, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a program to establish peer specialists in patient aligned care teams at medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 2, strike lines 15 through 18 and insert the following:

(1) Not later than December 31, 2018, at not fewer than 25 medical centers of the Department.

(2) Not later than December 31, 2019, at not fewer than 50 medical centers of the Department.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have 9 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 Sen-

ate, 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, January 25, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on pending nominations.

#### COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 25, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Global Challenges and the U.S. National Security Strategy."

#### 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, January 25, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "CFIUS Reform: Administration Perspectives on the essential elements."

#### 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, January 25, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "This is Not a Drill: An Examination of the Wireless Emergency Alert System."

#### 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, January 25, 2018, at 10 a.m., at the Washington Convention Center, to conduct a hearing entitled "Road to Tomorrow: Energy Innovation in Automotive Technologies."

#### 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, January 25, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Reauthorizing the Higher Education Act: Access and Innovation."

#### 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, January 25, 2018, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing on the nomination of Frank T. Brogan, of Pennsylvania, to be Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education.

#### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 25, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on subcommittee assignments and the following nominations: Kurt D. Engelhardt, of Louisiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, Barry W. Ashe, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana, Howard C. Niel-

son, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah, James R. Sweeney II, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Indiana, and John C. Anderson, to be United States Attorney for the District of New Mexico, Brandon J. Fremin, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana, and David G. Jolley, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Tennessee, all of the Department of Justice.

#### PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 25, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Combating the Opioid Crisis: Exploiting Vulnerabilities in the International Mail."

#### VETERAN PARTNERS' EFFORTS TO ENHANCE REINTEGRATION ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 1873 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 bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1873) to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a program to establish peer specialists in patient aligned care teams at medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. I further ask unanimous consent that the Blunt amendment, which is at the desk, be considered and agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 1920) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To modify the timeline for establishment of the program)

On page 2, strike lines 15 through 18 and insert the following:

(1) Not later than December 31, 2018, at not fewer than 25 medical centers of the Department.

(2) Not later than December 31, 2019, at not fewer than 50 medical centers of the Department.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill, as amended.

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

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

The bill (S. 1873), as amended, was passed.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I finally ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

#### NATIONAL SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 381, submitted earlier today.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 381), designating the week of January 21 through January 27, 2018, as "National School Choice Week."

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

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 381) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### SUPPORTING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 382, submitted earlier today.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. Res. 382) supporting the contributions of Catholic schools.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 382) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 2018

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 2 p.m., Monday, January 29; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2311, with the time until 5:30 p.m. equally divided in the usual form; finally, that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the cloture motions filed during Wednesday's session ripen in the order filed at 5:30 p.m., Monday.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 2018, AT 2 P.M.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 4:01 p.m., adjourned until Monday, January 29, 2018, at 2 p.m.

#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

##### FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

ROHIT CHOPRA, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSIONER FOR THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM SEPTEMBER 26, 2012, VICE JOSHUA D. WRIGHT, RESIGNED.

NOAH JOSHUA PHILLIPS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSIONER FOR THE TERM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM SEPTEMBER 26, 2016, VICE JULIE SIMONE BRILL, TERM EXPIRED.

JOSEPH SIMONS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSIONER FOR THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM SEPTEMBER 26, 2017, VICE TERRELL MCSWEENEY, TERM EXPIRED.

CHRISTINE S. WILSON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSIONER FOR THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM SEPTEMBER 26, 2011, VICE MAUREEN K. OHLHAUSEN.

CHRISTINE S. WILSON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSIONER FOR THE TERM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM SEPTEMBER 26, 2018. (REAPPOINTMENT)

#### CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate January 25, 2018:

##### THE JUDICIARY

JONATHAN H. PITTMAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

##### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

R. D. JAMES, OF MISSOURI, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY.