

*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. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. MCCONNELL, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 3749. A bill to amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to reform the procedures provided under such Act for the initiation, review, and resolution of claims alleging that employing offices of the legislative branch have violated the rights and protections provided to their employees under such Act, including protections against sexual harassment, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

By Mr. ROUNDS:

S. 3750. A bill to delay the effective date of the rule issued by the National Credit Union Administration titled "Risk-Based Capital"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 3751. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand the use of telehealth services for remote imaging for chronic eye disease; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HEITKAMP:

S. 3752. A bill to require the transfer of certain land to be held in trust for the benefit of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe of North and South Dakota, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 3753. A bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to grant a Federal charter to the Forest and Refuge County Foundation, to provide for the establishment of the Natural Resources Permanent Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. MERKLEY, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 3754. A bill to prohibit price gouging in the sale of drugs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Mr. UDALL):

S. 3755. A bill to establish a demonstration program regarding background checks for certain employees of the Bureau of Indian Affairs; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. REED, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. PETERS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HARRIS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 3756. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require oil polluters to pay the full cost of oil spills, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. REED, Mr. BOOKER, Mr.

BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. PETERS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HARRIS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 3757. A bill to amend the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 to require oil polluters to pay the full cost of oil spills, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 3758. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to Iranian financial institutions and the development and use of Iranian digital currency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 3759. A bill to designate Venezuela under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to permit nationals of Venezuela to be eligible for temporary protected status under such section and to strengthen internal migration systems in countries surrounding Venezuela; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CORKER (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. PORTMAN, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. REED):

S.J. Res. 69. A joint resolution supporting a Diplomatic Solution in Yemen and Condemning the Murder of Jamal Khashoggi; considered and passed.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. Res. 724. A resolution amending rule XXXI of the Standing Rules of the Senate to limit the time during which a nomination shall be confirmed or rejected, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. Res. 725. A resolution modifying extended debate in the Senate to improve the legislative process; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. Res. 726. A resolution amending rule XXVIII of the Standing Rules of the Senate to provide for timely establishment of conference committees; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. Res. 727. A resolution providing for consideration of changes to rules for the proceedings of the Senate; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. Res. 728. A resolution amending rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate to limit debate on motions to proceed; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. Res. 729. A resolution amending rule XV of the Standing Rules of the Senate to provide for consideration of a minimum number of amendments; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Ms. HARRIS):

S. Res. 730. A resolution condemning the tragic mass shooting in Thousand Oaks,

California, supporting all of the people impacted by the horrific event, and thanking law enforcement, firefighters, and emergency medical teams for their courageous efforts to respond to the attack and save lives; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. CASEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. Res. 731. A resolution designating December 10, 2018, as "Human Rights Day" and recognizing the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 352

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 352, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Master Sergeant Rodrick "Roddie" Edmonds in recognition of his heroic actions during World War II.

S. 378

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 378, a bill to amend titles 5 and 28, United States Code, to require the maintenance of databases on awards of fees and other expenses to prevailing parties in certain administrative proceedings and court cases to which the United States is a party, and for other purposes.

S. 428

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 428, a bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to authorize States to provide coordinated care to children with complex medical conditions through enhanced pediatric health homes, and for other purposes.

S. 693

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 693, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of permanent faculty in palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, nursing schools, social work schools, and other programs, including physician assistant education programs, to promote education and research in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine.

S. 1016

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1016, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand access to telehealth services, and for other purposes.

S. 1036

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of

S. 1036, a bill to promote research, development, and demonstration of marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy technologies, and for other purposes.

S. 1292

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1292, a bill to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to monitor and combat anti-Semitism globally, and for other purposes.

S. 2227

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2227, a bill to reauthorize the Money Follows the Person Demonstration Program.

S. 2690

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2690, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit review of certain Medicare payment determinations for disproportionate share hospitals, and for other purposes.

S. 2971

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2971, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to prohibit animal fighting in the United States territories.

S. 3181

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 3181, a bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to include in periodic health assessments, separation history and physical examinations, and other assessments an evaluation of whether a member of the Armed Forces has been exposed to open burn pits or toxic airborne chemicals, and for other purposes.

S. 3319

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3319, a bill to impose additional restrictions on tobacco flavors for use in e-cigarettes.

S. 3501

At the request of Mrs. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3501, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into a contract or other agreement with a third party to review appointees in the Veterans Health Administration who had a license terminated for cause by a State licensing board for care or services rendered at a non-Veterans Health Administration facility and providing individuals treated by such an appointee with notice if it is determined that an episode of care or services to which they received was below the

standard of care, and for other purposes.

S. 3549

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3549, a bill to establish the Palestinian Partnership Fund to promote joint economic development and finance joint ventures between Palestinian entrepreneurs and companies in the United States, Israel, and countries in the Middle East to improve economic cooperation and people to people exchanges to further shared community building, peaceful coexistence, dialogue, and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians.

S. 3559

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3559, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to terminate the credit for new qualified plug-in electric drive motor vehicles and to provide for a Federal Highway user fee on alternative fuel vehicles.

S. 3577

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3577, a bill to amend the Financial Stability Act of 2010 to require the Financial Stability Oversight Council to consider alternative approaches before determining that a U.S. nonbank financial company shall be supervised by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and for other purposes.

S. 3602

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 3602, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize school-based health centers, and for other purposes.

S. 3622

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3622, a bill to condemn gross human rights violations of ethnic Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, and calling for an end to arbitrary detention, torture, and harassment of these communities inside and outside China.

S. 3649

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3649, a bill to provide for programs to help reduce the risk that prisoners will recidivate upon release from prison, and for other purposes.

S. 3702

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3702, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to prevent the misclassification of drugs for purposes of the Medicaid drug rebate program.

S. 3728

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3728, a bill to promote the provision of exercise or fitness equipment, and exercise or fitness classes and instruction, that are accessible to individuals with disabilities.

S. 3729

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3729, a bill to recognize and honor the service of individuals who served in the United States Cadet Nurse Corps during World War II, and for other purposes.

S. 3746

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 3746, a bill to curtail the use of changes in mandatory programs affecting the Crime Victims Fund to inflate spending.

S. RES. 717

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 717, a resolution honoring the life and legacy of Rebecca Teresa Weichhand.

AMENDMENT NO. 4090

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4090 proposed to S.J. Res. 54, a joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress.

AMENDMENT NO. 4095

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4095 proposed to S.J. Res. 54, a joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress.

AMENDMENT NO. 4096

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4096 proposed to S.J. Res. 54, a joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress.

AMENDMENT NO. 4097

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4097 proposed to S.J. Res. 54, a joint resolution to direct the

removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress.

AMENDMENT NO. 4098

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4098 proposed to S.J. Res. 54, a joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 3753. A bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to grant a Federal charter to the Forest and Refuge County Foundation, to provide for the establishment of the Natural Resources Permanent Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today Senator CRAPO of Idaho and I are introducing the Forest Management for Rural Stability Act. This legislation replaces the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS) to provide revenue sharing with and compensation to over 700 rural forested counties in the over 40 States that host America's treasured, public forested lands and wildlife refuges.

In 2000, then-Senator Larry Craig, also of Idaho, and I, had signed into law SRS: a 6-year long safety-net program to stabilize county budgets following years of depleted revenue sharing payments from the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Oregon and California Grant Lands managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Over its lifetime, SRS has been a success, providing more than \$6.8 billion nationwide for rural roads, schools, and healthy forest projects. SRS also provided the basis for the beginning of, and the now growing propensity for, the USFS and the BLM to collaborate with local people and interests on the management of these public lands, and for local folks and counties to collaborate together and with the USFS and BLM, in return.

Despite its many successes, the continuation of SRS is in jeopardy. The program expired in fiscal year 2016. Congress passed a two-year extension of the program, but after its expiration. And this was not the first time nor the last time Congress allowed it to expire—SRS is expired right now, though Senator CRAPO and I are attempting, in these last moments of the 115th Congress, to reauthorize it again for at least a year, perhaps two.

This stop and start existence of this program hits at the heart of any attempts at collaboration. And it certainly undermines any attempts for a county to budget. Our rural counties

should not continue to suffer neither this uncertainty, nor the market based uncertainty that comes with simply relying on revenue sharing and forest management for support.

That is why Senator CRAPO and I propose an SRS modernization, funding certainty while supporting active forest management. The Forest Management for Rural Stability Act establishes a permanent endowment fund, the Natural Resources Permanent Fund, to provide stable, reliable, increasing payments to counties, in perpetuity, removing them from the vagaries of Congress or the market.

Under this legislation, Congress charters a fiduciary corporation, the Forest and Refuge County Foundation, to manage the endowed fund. The corporation will be independent from any instrumentality of the U.S. government, including Congress, to ensure the principle balance is held in perpetuity and is separate from annual appropriations. The corporation will be overseen by a board of directors responsible for a transparent governance structure. The principle of the fund will be invested to earn interest. To grow the fund, in addition to the investment income, the USFS, BLM, and the Fish and Wildlife Service will deposit their annual revenue sharing receipts into the fund. The interest the fund generates will constitute the payments to the counties, distributed annually using the existing SRS formula. Initial payments to counties will be equal what counties received for Fiscal Year 2017 SRS payments.

The Forest Management for Rural Stability Act continues Congress's commitment to fostering economic growth in rural counties by continuing Forest Service Resource Advisory Committees. In addition, the bill gives county governments greater flexibility in how these funds are spent for economic development and rural jobs.

Passing the the Forest Management for Rural Stability Act will update SRS for 2018 and beyond—looking forward for our forested counties, rather than backward to last century efforts. This bill updates an already successful program that deserves action. I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. MCCONNELL, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 3749. A bill to amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to reform the procedures provided under such Act for the initiation, review, and resolution of claims alleging that employing offices of the legislative branch have violated the rights and protections provided to their employees under such Act, including protections against sexual harassment, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

S. 3749

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; REFERENCES IN ACT; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 Reform Act”.

(b) REFERENCES IN ACT.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to or repeal of a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to that section or other provision of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.).

(c) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; references in Act; table of contents.

TITLE I—REFORM OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURES

Subtitle A—Reform of Procedures for Initiation, Preliminary Review, and Resolution of Claims

Sec. 101. Description of procedures available for consideration of alleged violations.

Sec. 102. Reform of process for initiation of procedures.

Sec. 103. Preliminary review of claims by hearing officer.

Sec. 104. Availability of mediation during process.

Subtitle B—Other Reforms

Sec. 111. Requiring Members of Congress to reimburse Treasury for amounts paid as settlements and awards in cases of acts by Members.

Sec. 112. Automatic referral to Congressional Ethics Committees of disposition of certain claims alleging violations of Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 involving Members of Congress and senior staff.

Sec. 113. Availability of remote work assignment or paid leave of absence during pendency of procedures.

Sec. 114. Modification of rules on confidentiality of proceedings.

Sec. 115. Reimbursement by other employing offices of legislative branch of payments of certain awards and settlements.

TITLE II—IMPROVING OPERATIONS OF OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS

Sec. 201. Reports on awards and settlements.

Sec. 202. Workplace climate surveys of employing offices.

Sec. 203. Record retention.

Sec. 204. Confidential advisors.

Sec. 205. GAO study of management practices.

Sec. 206. GAO audit of cybersecurity.

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS REFORMS

Sec. 301. Application of Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008.

Sec. 302. Extension to unpaid staff of rights and protections against employment discrimination.

Sec. 303. Clarification of treatment of Library of Congress visitors.

Sec. 304. Notices.

Sec. 305. Clarification of coverage of employees of Helsinki and China Commissions.

Sec. 306. Training and education programs of other employing offices.

Sec. 307. Support for out-of-area covered employees.

Sec. 308. Renaming Office of Compliance as Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.

TITLE IV—EFFECTIVE DATE

Sec. 401. Effective date.