By Mr. JOHNSON:

S. Res. 49. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Mr. BLUNT):

S. Res. 50. A resolution improving procedures for the consideration of nominations in the Senate; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. BURR:

S. Res. 51. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Select Committee on Intelligence; from the Select Committee on Intelligence; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. HOEVEN:

S. Res. 52. A resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Indian Affairs; from the Committee on Indian Affairs; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. Res. 53. A resolution recognizing the staff of the Office of Legislative Counsel of the Senate on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Office; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 126

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 126, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a demonstration program to adapt the successful practices of providing foreign aid to underdeveloped economies to the provision of Federal economic development assistance to Native communities in similarly situated remote areas in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 130

At the request of Mr. SASSE, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 130, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion.

S. 162

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 162, a bill to provide back pay to low-wage contractor employees, and for other purposes.

S. 172

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 172, a bill to delay the reimposition of the annual fee on health insurance providers until after 2021.

S. 179

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 179, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a clinical trial of the effects of cannabis on certain health outcomes of adults with chronic pain and post-traumatic stress disorder, and for other purposes.

S. 184

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 184, a bill to authorize the appropriation of funds to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for conducting or supporting research on firearms safety or gun violence prevention.

S. 238

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 238, a bill to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to monitor and combat anti-Semitism globally, and for other purposes.

S. 246

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 246, a bill to block the implementation of certain presidential actions that restrict individuals from certain countries from entering the United States.

S. 262

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 262, a bill to provide for a pay increase in 2019 for certain civilian employees of the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

S. 286

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 286, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under part B of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 293

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 293, a bill to enhance border security to reduce drug trafficking and related money laundering.

S. 309

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 309, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reinstate estate and generation-skipping taxes, and for other purposes.

S. 311

At the request of Mr. SASSE, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 311, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion.

S. 319

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 319, a bill to improve the reproductive assistance provided by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs to severely wounded, ill, or injured members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their spouses or partners, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

S. 349. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to request nominations for, and make determinations regarding, roads to be designated under the national scenic byways program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the Reviving America's Scenic Byways Act, a bill I have introduced with my colleague from Maryland, Senator CARDIN. Our bill seeks to revive the long-dormant process within the U.S. Department of Transportation through which some of our Nation's most remarkable roadways can earn the prestigious designation of ''National Scenic Byway.''

The National Scenic Byways Program began as a grassroots effort to help recognize, preserve, and enhance selected roads throughout the United States based on one or more cultural, historic, natural, recreational, and scenic qualities. Today, there are more than 150 distinct roads nationwide that have been recognized as National Scenic Byways—including several which have gained the honor of being named an ''All-American Road.''

I am proud that my home State of Maine boasts not only three National Scenic Byways, but also the Acadia All-American Road. These roadways provide Mainers and tourists alike with spectacular views and memorable experiences, while at the same time spurring much-needed economic activity in the surrounding areas. The National Scenic Byways program represents a true win-win scenario by protecting precious corridors and providing tangible benefits for local communities.

Despite this program's proven value, its nomination process has been inactive since the passage of the 2012 surface transportation funding bill (also known as MAP–21). As a result, numerous roadways across the country have been prevented from pursuing National Scenic Byway designation.

In fact, a recent survey found that at least 44 State scenic byways across the country are prepared to seek national designation as soon as the program is reopened to nominations. It is critical that we provide these local byways the opportunity to seek the Federal designation and reap its demonstrated benefits.

Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, which in turn supports the preservation of America's most unique roadways and the facilitation of increased economic activity in the regions that they serve.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. WICKER):

S. 359. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income certain Federally-subsidized loan repayments for dental school faculty; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today with my colleague Senator WICKER to bring your attention to our proposed Dental Loan Repayment Assistance Act. This legislation will provide incentives for dental and dental hygiene graduates to remain as dental school faculty by eliminating certain loan assistance benefits from being counted as taxable income. We rely on dental faculty to train the next generation of oral health providers, but too often, these educators find themselves pushed to work in private practice in order to pay off their student loans. The Dental Loan Repayment Assistance Act will ease some of this financial burden and allow faculty to stay where they are most needed.

There are currently over 5,000 dental health professional shortage areas nationwide—areas where it is hard to find a dental provider even with insurance coverage. By 2025, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) projects that the United States will have a national shortage of 15,000 dentists. We can only hope to solve this problem if we can recruit and retain enough faculty to train the next generation of dentists and dental hygienists. Crippling educational debt should not prevent our Nation from having the oral health care providers it needs, and this bill will help address that.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge that February is National Children's Dental Health Month. Since 1981, this month has afforded us the opportunity to acknowledge the importance of children's dental health. We recognize the significant strides we have made, but we also acknowledge the work that remains to be done. I invite my colleagues to join me to use this month to renew our commitment to ensuring that all children in our country have access to affordable and comprehensive dental services. To echo Former U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, ''there is no health without oral health.''

Despite being largely preventable, tooth decay is the single most common chronic health condition among children and adolescents in the United States. It is four times more common than early-childhood obesity, five times more common than asthma, and 20 times more common than diabetes. Among children in families living below the federal poverty line, 52 percent have cavities. Children with cavities in their primary or ''baby'' teeth are three times more likely to develop cavities in their permanent, adult teeth, and the early loss of baby teeth can make it harder for permanent teeth to grow in properly. If tooth decay is left untreated, it not only can destroy a child's teeth; it can have a debilitating impact on his or her health and quality of life.

Many have heard me speak before about the tragic loss of Deamonte Driver, a 12-year-old Prince George's County resident, in 2007. Deamonte's death was particularly heartbreaking because it was entirely preventable. What started out as a toothache turned into a severe brain infection that could have been prevented by an $80 extraction. After multiple surgeries and a lengthy hospital stay, sadly, Deamonte passed away—twelve years ago this month.

Even in less tragic cases, tooth and gum pain can impede a child's healthy development, including the ability to learn, play, and eat nutritious foods. Recent studies have shown that children with poor oral health are nearly three times more likely to miss school due to dental pain, and children reporting recent toothaches are four times more likely to have a lower grade point average than their peers without dental pain.

Tooth decay and oral health problems also disproportionately affect children from low-income families and minority communities. According to the National Institutes of Health, approximately 80 percent of childhood dental disease is concentrated in 25 percent of the population. These children and families often face inordinately high barriers to receiving essential oral health care and, simply put, the consequences can be devastating.

In 2009, Congress reauthorized the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) with an important addition: a guaranteed pediatric dental benefit. Today, CHIP provides affordable comprehensive health coverage—including dental coverage—to more than 8 million children. Thanks to CHIP, we now have the highest number of children with medical and dental coverage in history. In addition, in 2010, Congress included pediatric dental services in the set of essential health benefits established under the Affordable Care Act.

I am very proud that my State of Maryland has been recognized as a national leader in pediatric dental health coverage. In a 2011 Pew Center report, ''The State of Children's Dental Health,'' Maryland earned an ''A'' and was the only State to meet seven of eight policy benchmarks for addressing children's dental health needs. In addition, in the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange, every qualified health plan now includes pediatric dental coverage, so families do not have to pay a separate premium for dental coverage for their children and do not have a separate deductible or out-of-pocket limit for pediatric dental services. I am pleased to say that our actions have been working, and our numbers are improving. In 2004, nearly 23 percent of all children had untreated tooth decay. In 2016, that number dropped down to 13 percent.

I urge my colleagues to join Senator WICKER and me in supporting the Dental Loan Repayment Assistance Act to help address our critical nationwide shortage of dental healthcare providers and especially dental faculty. We will not continue to allow crippling graduate student debt to deprive the American people of the teachers and mentors we need to train the next generation of oral healthcare providers.

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

S. 366. A bill to shorten monopoly periods for prescription drugs that are the subjects of sudden price hikes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 366

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Forcing Limits on Abusive and Tumultuous Prices'' or the ''FLAT Prices Act''.

SEC. 2. REDUCED MARKET EXCLUSIVITY.

(a) PENALTY.—If the manufacturer of a prescription drug approved under section 505 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355) or licensed under section 351 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262) increases the price of such drug as described in subsection (b), any remaining period of market exclusivity with respect to such drug shall be reduced as follows:

(1) With respect to any price increase described in subsection (b), such market exclusivity shall be reduced by 180 days.

(2) For every 5 percent price increase over the 10 percent, 18 percent, or 25 percent, respectively, threshold price increases described in subsection (b), such market exclusivity shall be reduced for an additional 30-days.

(b) PRICE INCREASE.—A price increase described in this subsection is an increase in the wholesale acquisition cost (as defined in section 1847A(c)(6)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–3a(c)(6)(B))) of a prescription drug of more than 10 percent over a 1-year period, more than 18 percent over a 2-year period, or more than 25 percent over a 3-year period.

(c) REPORT ON PRICE INCREASE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A drug manufacturer that increases the price of a prescription drug as described in subsection (b) shall report such increase to the Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this section as the ''Secretary'') within 30 days of meeting the criteria for a price increase under such subsection.

(2) FAILURE TO SUBMIT REPORT.—In the case of a drug manufacturer that does not submit a report required under paragraph (1) within the 30-day period described in such paragraph, in addition to the penalty under subsection (a), the period of market exclusivity with respect to such drug shall be reduced by 30 days for each day after the due date of the report until the report is submitted.

(d) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive, or decrease, the reduction in the period of market exclusivity that would otherwise apply under subsection (a) with respect to a prescription drug if—

(1) the manufacturer of such drug submits—

(A) a report under subsection (c)(1); and

(B) an application for such a waiver, at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require; and

(2) based upon the information in such application, the Secretary determines that—

(A) the price increase is necessary to enable production of the drug, does not unduly restrict patient access to the drug , and does not negatively impact public health; and

(B) such waiver or decrease constitutes a deviation from the reduction in market exclusivity that would otherwise apply under subsection (a) only to the extent necessary to achieve drug production objectives.

(e) PERIOD OF MARKET EXCLUSIVITY.—For purposes of this section, the term ''period of market exclusivity'' means any period of market exclusivity granted with respect to a prescription drug under clause (ii), (iii), or (iv) of section 505(c)(3)(E) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(c)(3)(E)), section 505(j)(5)(B)(iv) of such Act, clause (ii), (iii), or (iv) of section 505(j)(5)(F) of such Act, or paragraphs (6) or (7) of section 351(k) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262(k)).

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 47—AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES BY THE COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. CRAPO submitted the following resolution; from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 47

Resolved,

SECTION 1. GENERAL AUTHORITY.

In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs (in this resolution referred to as the ''committee'') is authorized from March 1, 2019 through February 28, 2021, in its discretion, to—

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

SEC. 2. EXPENSES.

(a) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2019.—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019 under this resolution shall not exceed $3,243,919, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed $11,666 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed $875 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(b) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 PERIOD.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020 under this resolution shall not exceed $5,561,004, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed $20,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed $1,500 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2021.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2020 through February 28, 2021 under this resolution shall not exceed $2,317,085, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed $8,334 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed $625 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

SEC. 3. EXPENSES AND AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS.

(a) EXPENSES OF THE COMMITTEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), expenses of the committee under this resolution shall be paid from the contingent fund of the Senate upon vouchers approved by the chairman of the committee.

(2) VOUCHERS NOT REQUIRED.—Vouchers shall not be required for—

(A) the disbursement of salaries of employees paid at an annual rate;

(B) the payment of telecommunications provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper;

(C) the payment of stationery supplies purchased through the Keeper of the Stationery;

(D) payments to the Postmaster of the Senate;

(E) the payment of metered charges on copying equipment provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper;

(F) the payment of Senate Recording and Photographic Services; or

(G) the payment of franked and mass mail costs by the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper.

(b) AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS.—There are authorized to be paid from the appropriations account for ''Expenses of Inquiries and Investigations'' of the Senate such sums as may be necessary for agency contributions related to the compensation of employees of the committee—

(1) for the period March 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019;

(2) for the period October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020; and

(3) for the period October 1, 2020 through February 28, 2021.

SENATE RESOLUTION 48—AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. WICKER submitted the following resolution; from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 48

Resolved, That, in carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under Rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized from March 1, 2019, through February 28, 2021, in its discretion—

(1) to make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) to employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, to use on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

SEC. 2. (a) The expenses of the committee for the period from March 1, 2019, through September 30, 2019, under this resolution shall not exceed $4,155,132, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed $50,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed $50,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(j))).

(b) For the period October 1, 2019, through September 30, 2020, expenses of the committee under this resolution shall not exceed $7,104,057, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed $50,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed $50,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(j))).

(c) For the period October 1, 2020, through February 28, 2021, expenses of the committee under this resolution shall not exceed $2,960,024, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed $50,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed $50,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(j))).

SEC. 3. Expenses of the committee under this resolution shall be paid from the contingent fund of the Senate upon vouchers approved by the chairman of the committee, except that vouchers shall not be required for—

(1) the disbursement of salaries of employees paid at an annual rate;

(2) the payment of telecommunications provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper;

(3) the payment of stationery supplies purchased through the Keeper of the Stationery;

(4) payments to the Postmaster of the Senate;

(5) the payment of metered charges on copying equipment provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper;

(6) the payment of Senate Recording and Photographic Services; or