

S. 4640. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to require physicians and other prescribers of controlled substances to complete training on treating and managing patients with opioid and other substance use disorders, which shall also satisfy certain training requirements to receive a waiver for dispensing narcotic drugs for maintenance or detoxification treatment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BENNET:

S. 4641. A bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to provide for transparency and landowner protections in the conduct of lease sales under that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BENNET:

S. 4642. A bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to ensure sufficient bonding and complete and timely reclamation of land and water disturbed by Federal and Indian oil and gas production, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 4643. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a forest incentives program to keep forests intact and sequester carbon on private forest land of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. JONES:

S. 4644. A bill to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to ensure that certain custodial deposits of well capitalized insured depository institutions are not considered to be funds obtained by or through deposit brokers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. BALDWIN:

S. 4645. A bill to improve the requirements for commercial air tours and commercial air tour operators, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. PETERS):

S. 4646. A bill to repeal certain war powers of the President under the Communications Act of 1934; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. FISCHER:

S. 4647. A bill to amend the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, to establish a cattle contract library, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 4648. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to list isotonicazene as a schedule I controlled substance; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. LOEFFLER (for herself, Mr. LEE, Mr. LANKFORD, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. COTTON):

S. 4649. A bill to provide that for purposes of determining compliance with title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 in athletics, sex shall be recognized based solely on a person's reproductive biology and genetics at birth; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 4650. A bill to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to clarify the treatment of authentic Alaska Native articles of handicraft containing nonedible migratory bird parts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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

S. 4651. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to establish a National Transit

Frontline Workforce Training Center, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR:

S. 4652. A bill to require the United States Postal Service to treat election mail as first-class mail and deliver such mail at no cost to the sender, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 4653. A bill to protect the healthcare of hundreds of millions of people of the United States and prevent efforts of the Department of Justice to advocate courts to strike down the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; read the first time.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. PETERS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BROWN, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 4654. A bill to amend the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 to require that at least 12 percent of amounts appropriated out of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund are used for projects on the Great Lakes Navigation System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. PERDUE:

S. 4655. A bill to make improvements to the Main Street Lending Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. HIRONO:

S. 4656. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a reduction in certain loan fees for certain veterans affected by major disasters; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 711. A resolution calling on the President of the United States to take executive action to broadly cancel Federal student loan debt; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. Res. 712. A resolution designating the week of September 21 through September 25, 2020, as "Community School Coordinators Appreciation Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 428

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 428, a bill to lift the trade embargo on Cuba.

S. 633

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 633, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the

Women's Army Corps who were assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, known as the "Six Triple Eight".

S. 1381

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1381, a bill to modify the presumption of service connection for veterans who were exposed to herbicide agents while serving in the Armed Forces in Thailand during the Vietnam era, and for other purposes.

S. 1418

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1418, a bill to establish the Strength in Diversity Program, and for other purposes.

S. 1687

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1687, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a special rule for certain casualty losses of uncut timber.

S. 1727

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1727, a bill to establish the Partnership Fund for Peace to promote joint economic development and finance ventures between Palestinian entrepreneurs and companies and those in the United States and Israel to improve economic cooperation and people-to-people peacebuilding programs, and to further shared community building, peaceful coexistence, dialogue, and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians.

S. 1791

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1791, a bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of religion, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), and marital status in the administration and provision of child welfare services, to improve safety, well-being, and permanency for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer or questioning foster youth, and for other purposes.

S. 2008

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of S. 2008, a bill to prohibit, as an unfair or deceptive act or practice, commercial sexual orientation conversion therapy, and for other purposes.

S. 2645

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2645, a bill to prove that

the Federal Communications Commission and communications service providers regulated by the Commission under the Communications Act of 1934 shall not be subject to certain provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the National Historic Preservation Act with respect to the construction, rebuilding, or hardening of communications facilities following a major disaster or an emergency declared by the President, and for other purposes.

S. 3072

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) were added as cosponsors of S. 3072, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to prohibit the approval of new abortion drugs, to prohibit investigational use exemptions for abortion drugs, and to impose additional regulatory requirements with respect to previously approved abortion drugs, and for other purposes.

S. 3451

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3451, a bill to improve the health and safety of Americans living with food allergies and related disorders, including potentially life-threatening anaphylaxis, food protein-induced enterocolitis syndrome, and eosinophilic gastrointestinal diseases, and for other purposes.

S. 4014

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4014, a bill to provide for supplemental loans under the Paycheck Protection Program.

S. 4086

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) were added as cosponsors of S. 4086, a bill amend title 38, United States Code, to revise the definition of Vietnam era for purposes of the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 4150

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4150, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to provide assistance to certain providers of transportation services affected by the novel coronavirus.

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4150, *supra*.

S. 4152

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4152, a bill to provide for the adjust-

ment or modification by the Secretary of Agriculture of loans for critical rural utility service providers, and for other purposes.

S. 4290

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4290, a bill to provide much needed liquidity to America's job creators.

S. 4360

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4360, a bill to divert Federal funding away from supporting the presence of police in schools and toward evidence-based and trauma informed services that address the needs of marginalized students and improve academic outcomes, and for other purposes.

S. 4511

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4511, a bill to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to education, burial benefits, and other matters, and for other purposes.

S. 4520

At the request of Mrs. LOEFFLER, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4520, a bill to transfer the responsibility of verifying small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans or service-disabled veterans to the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 4571

At the request of Mr. PERDUE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 4571, a bill to extend certain deadlines for the 2020 decennial census.

S. 4593

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4593, a bill to award posthumously the Congressional Gold Medal to Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley.

S. 4594

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 4594, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and to expand eligibility for dependency and indemnity compensation paid to certain survivors of certain veterans.

S. 4618

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4618, a bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for disaster relief for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

S. 4634

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), the Senator

from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) were added as cosponsors of S. 4634, a bill to provide support for air carrier workers, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 9

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 9, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that tax-exempt fraternal benefit societies have historically provided and continue to provide critical benefits to the people and communities of the United States.

S. RES. 578

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 578, a resolution condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

S. RES. 672

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 672, a resolution designating September 2020 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.

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 672, *supra*.

S. RES. 705

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 705, a resolution proclaiming the week of September 21 through September 25, 2020, to be "National Clean Energy Week".

S. RES. 709

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 709, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the August 13, 2020, and September 11, 2020, announcements of the establishment of full diplomatic relations between the State of Israel and the United Arab Emirates and the State of Israel and the Kingdom of Bahrain are historic achievements.

# STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. REED, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. KAINE, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 4638. A bill to preserve and promote integrity in scientific decision-making at the Department of Health and Human Services; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. SCHUMER. 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. 4638

*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 “Science and Transparency Over Politics Act”.

## SEC. 2. INVESTIGATION OF POLITICAL INTERFERENCE WITH DECISIONS OF SCIENTIFIC AGENCIES OF HHS.

### (a) APPOINTMENT OF THE TASK FORCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Pandemic Response Accountability Committee established under section 15010 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (Public Law 116-136), shall appoint, not later than 1 month after the date of enactment of this Act, the Task Force of the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (referred to in this section as the “Task Force”), which shall consist of 5 members of the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee.

(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—The members of the Task Force shall have expertise in conducting independent audits, evaluations, and investigations.

(b) INVESTIGATIONS AND REPORTS.—The Task Force shall—

(1) conduct an investigation of political interference with decisions made by scientific agencies of the Department of Health and Human Services during the time period described in subsection (f); and

(2) not later than January 31, 2021, and every 6 months thereafter, until the date that is 6 months after the end of the time period described in subsection (f), submit a report of the findings of such investigation to the Committees on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives.

(c) CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting the investigation under subsection (b), the Task Force shall consider—

(1) emails and other records of communications, including—

(A) communications between the White House, the Department of Health and Human Services, and scientific agencies of the Department of Health and Human Services; and

(B) communications between political appointees, career staff, and contractors within scientific agencies of the Department of Health and Human Services;

(2) initial, subsequent, and final drafts of scientific publications or communications, in order to assess changes made by scientific agencies of the Department of Health and Human Services as a result of political interference; and

(3) other information, as the Task Force determines appropriate.

(d) OBSTRUCTION OF INVESTIGATION.—The Task Force shall notify, in writing, the Committees on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives; and the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee of any obstruction, prevention, or delay of information or communication requested pursuant to the investigation under subsection (b), not later than 30 days after the Task Force first requested the information or communication. The notification shall include—

(1) a description of the information or communication sought;

(2) the date on which such information or communication was first requested;

(3) the date of any subsequent effort to obtain the information or communication; and

(4) a summary of any response from the person from which the information or communication was requested, including any explanation by that person of why the requested information or communication is not being provided.

(e) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term “political interference with decisions made by scientific agencies of the Health and Human Services” includes any significant action by the executive branch of the Federal Government to—

(1) pressure the Food and Drug Administration to reach a certain outcome related to a drug, device, or biological product for the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of COVID-19;

(2) pressure such agency to make a decision related to a drug, device, or biological product for the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of COVID-19 within a certain timeframe;

(3) prevent such agency from taking an action related to a drug, device, or biological product for the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of COVID-19, or from taking such action within a particular timeframe;

(4) make a decision for the Food and Drug Administration related to a drug, device, or biological product for the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of COVID-19 that the Food and Drug Administration would make itself in the ordinary course;

(5) pressure the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or any other scientific agency of the Department of Health and Human Services to release, withhold, or modify public health guidance, data, information, or publications related to COVID-19 in a manner that is inconsistent with the conclusion reached by the relevant senior career scientists;

(6) provide a grant, cooperative agreement, award, or other Federal support through a scientific agency of the Department of Health and Human Services for an entity or endeavor related to COVID-19 for reasons other than strengthening the Nation's COVID-19 response, including with respect to reducing morbidity and mortality related to COVID-19; or

(7) otherwise influence decisions by scientific agencies of the Department of Health

and Human Services in a manner that is inconsistent with strengthening the Nation's COVID-19 response, including with respect to reducing morbidity and mortality related to COVID-19.

(f) TIME PERIOD.—The time period described in this subsection is the period beginning on the effective date of the public health emergency declared by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d) on January 31, 2020, with respect to COVID-19, and ending on the last day of such public health emergency.

(g) CLARIFICATION.—Nothing in this section shall prevent the Task Force from releasing any information before January 31, 2021, or before a full report is complete, if the Task Force determines that the release of such information is in the public interest.

(h) FUNDING.—To carry out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated \$25,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2021 and 2022.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 4648. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to list isotontonazene as a schedule I controlled substance; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, we are facing momentous issues in the Senate and in Washington and in our Nation.

Today, we are debating a spending bill to keep the government funded past the end of this month. There are ongoing negotiations to help provide additional relief to those most affected by the coronavirus.

With the sad news of the passing of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, there is now a Supreme Court vacancy as well.

As momentous as these issues are, we ought not miss what is happening on the streets of America, though, as too many in Washington missed for years as Americans were dying by the thousands as a result of the opioid epidemic that hit this country, from prescription pills to heroin, to synthetic opioids like fentanyl.

Now, in recent years, Washington has gotten the news, and we have taken action to try to stem the tide of drug overdoses around our country.

But the fight continues, so I want to call the Senate and the Nation's attention to a new threat: isotontonazene. It is harder to pronounce than fentanyl, but it is equally deadly. It will kill you in a heartbeat, and it also comes from China. Reports of iso—as this hard-to-pronounce drug is often called on the street—are still scattered.

A shipment was seized in Canada early last year. Now it has been popping up in Europe, in countries as far flung as Belgium, Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Sweden, and the United Kingdom, and, at about the same time, iso has found its way to America as well. It has turned up in both pill and powder form, seemingly shipped in concentrated, small quantities that escape detection too often. Once it is here, it is usually cut with other drugs, like heroin and cocaine, to make them more powerful and much more deadly.

An unsuspecting drug user can inject a tainted dose or take a counterfeit