

the Reagan Administration to be an observer of the Bulgarian National Assembly elections on June 10, 1990, on behalf of the International Republican Institute. With the collapse of the Soviet Empire, countries of Europe, the Baltics, Central Europe, and Central Asia conducted the first post-communist elections, replacing totalitarian dictatorships.

Before arriving in Sofia, my research incorrectly identified Bulgaria appreciated being the most subservient Soviet satellite. Upon arriving, I found that this was not true as it was instantly inspiring to meet courageous Bulgarian patriots restoring democracy, which had been destroyed by Nazis and communists.

Additionally, getting my attention was that Bulgaria and my home state of South Carolina were so similar—beautiful beaches to the east, mountains to the west, and our respective capitals of Sofia and Columbia are both in the center.

I enjoy confirming to Bulgarians that an extraordinary feature in Bulgaria that we do not have in South Carolina are the phenomenal structures and antiquities of ancient Thrace, Greece, and Rome being the foundation of Western Civilization and remain to remind us of our shared heritage.

Pumping gas myself in college, I especially understand gas stations. In 1990, arriving Bulgaria, I only recognized that a pathetic building appearing as an outhouse was actually a gas station because there were lines of cars waiting patiently—with no gas. Then, I found out the cars were not actually cars, but Russian Ladas and East German Trabants, being 2-stroke motorcycle engines with a hood.

Now, I see modern Circle K's convenience stores fully stocked with a Wendy's or a Lukoil with a Burger King. And especially good, many cars are now X-5 BMW's made in South Carolina—and I want every Bulgarian to have a BMW.

The foundation of the Friendship Group Bulgaria—USA encourages Black Sea patriots of Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia who are under attack by war criminal Putin who is insanely seeking to resurrect the failed Soviet Union, oppressing the people of Russia.

One day, Russians will liberate themselves for freedom.

Last month, I was honored to meet with Defense Minister Atanas Zapryanov and Ambassador Georgi Panayotov, with talented Bulgarian pilots in Greenville, South Carolina, receiving F-22 jet fighters produced by Lockheed Martin.

We join valued NATO allies Romania and Türkiye in support of Bulgaria, as Bulgaria is a vital ally with the Novo Selo NATO Base, where young Bulgarians and young Americans train side-by-side for Peace Through Strength.

#### INTRODUCTION OF MEDICAL RESEARCH FOR OUR TROOPS ACT

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 11, 2025*

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce the Medical Research for Our Troops Act, a bill to amend the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025, by restoring essential funding for Congressionally Directed Medical Research Pro-

grams within the Department of Defense Account. I thank my colleague, Rep. Mike Levin for joining me as a co-lead of this important legislation, the 21 original cosponsors who support the bill, and the 66 organizations who endorse the bill text.

Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs have been instrumental in advancing groundbreaking medical research that directly benefit our service members and veterans. Over the years, this program has supported lifesaving innovations in areas such as traumatic brain injury, PTSD, breast cancer, and other conditions that disproportionately affect our military community. Many treatments and therapies that were once experimental are now standard care, thanks to the success and dedication of Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs-funded research.

Our bill restores funding to levels aligned with the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024, ensuring continuity of these vital research efforts. By doing so, we reaffirm our commitment to sustaining the momentum of these proven programs that save lives and improve the health outcomes of those who serve our Nation.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to ensure that medical research for our troops and veterans remains strong, innovative, and fully funded.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 11, 2025*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, my plane was delayed in arriving to Washington, D.C. on June 9, 2025, and I was unable to vote on H.R. 2035, the American Cargo for American Ships Act—Roll Call 157. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

For the vote on H. Res. 488 Denouncing the antisemitic terrorist attack in Boulder, Colorado—Roll Call 158, it was my intention to vote NAY, but I inadvertently voted yes when rushing to the chamber thinking it was still the first vote. I do not support this resolution as it exploits the horrible incident that took place in Boulder Colorado on June 2, 2025, where makeshift firebombs were thrown at a crowd hosting an event raising awareness about hostages still held by Hamas in Gaza. The resolution also falsely criticizes sanctuary cities and praises Immigration Customs and Enforcement (ICE) agents. These issues distract from the important message of condemning anti-semitism and the domestic terrorism that occurred in Boulder.

#### SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and

any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, June 12, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

#### MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 17

10:15 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine scammers exposed, focusing on protecting older Americans from transnational crime networks.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of Defense

To hold closed hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2026 for the intelligence community.

SVC-217

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2026 for military construction and family housing.

SD-124

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Technology, and Data Privacy

To hold hearings to examine the World Anti Doping Agency, focusing on swimming in denial over Chinese doping.

SR-253

JUNE 18

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2026 and the Future Years Defense Program for the Department of Defense; to be immediately followed by a closed session in SVC-217.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Surface Transportation, Freight, Pipelines, and Safety

To hold hearings to examine modernizing America's rail network.

SR-253

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of Energy.

SD-366

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Jonathan Berry, of Maryland, to be Solicitor, Andrew Rogers, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, and Anthony D'Esposito, of New York, to be Inspector General, all of the Department of Labor, and Andrea Lucas, of Virginia,

to be a Member of the Equal Employ-	10:15 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
ment Opportunity Commission.	Committee on the Judiciary	Committee on Appropriations
SD-430	Business meeting to consider pending	Subcommittee on Department of Defense
	calendar business.	To hold hearings to examine proposed
	SD-226	budget estimates for fiscal year 2026 for
		the Army.
		SD-192