

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S929—S1130

Measures Introduced: Six bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 2425–2430, and S. Res. 406. **Page S967**

Measures Reported:

S. 951, to reform the process by which Federal agencies analyze and formulate new regulations and guidance documents, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 115–208) **Page S967**

Measures Passed:

Sergeant Ernest I. “Boots” Thomas VA Clinic: Committee on Veterans’ Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 2246, to designate the health care center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Tallahassee, Florida, as the Sergeant Ernest I. “Boots” Thomas VA Clinic, and the bill was then passed. **Page S1130**

Authorizing Representation by Senate Legal Counsel: Senate agreed to S. Res. 406, to authorize representation by the Senate Legal Counsel in the case of United States v. Ahmed Alahmedalabdalklah. **Page S1130**

Measures Considered:

Broader Options for Americans Act—Agreement: Senate began consideration of H.R. 2579, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the premium tax credit with respect to unsubsidized COBRA continuation coverage, after agreeing to the motion to proceed, and taking action on the following amendments and motions proposed thereto: **Pages S930–65**

Pending:

Grassley Amendment No. 1959, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S930–65**

McConnell (for Toomey/Cruz) Amendment No.1948 (to Amendment No. 1959), to ensure that State and local law enforcement may cooperate with Federal officials to protect our communities from violent criminals and suspected terrorists who are illegally present in the United States. **Pages S930–31**

Schumer Modified Amendment No. 1958 (to the language proposed to be stricken by Amendment No. 1959), of a perfecting nature. **Pages S931–65**

Durbin (for Coons/McCain) Amendment No. 1955 (to Amendment No. 1958), to provide relief from removal and adjustment of status of certain individuals who are long-term United States residents and who entered the United States before reaching the age of 18, improve border security, foster United States engagement in Central America. **Pages S931–32**

A motion was entered to close further debate on Durbin (for Coons/McCain) Amendment No. 1955 (to Amendment No. 1958) (listed above), and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Friday, February 16, 2018. **Page S965**

A motion was entered to close further debate on McConnell (for Toomey/Cruz) Amendment No.1948 (to Amendment No. 1959) (listed above), and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of Durbin (for Coons/McCain) Amendment No. 1955 (to Amendment No. 1958). **Page S965**

A motion was entered to close further debate on Schumer Modified Amendment No. 1958 (to the language proposed to be stricken by Amendment No. 1959) (listed above), and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of McConnell (for Toomey/Cruz) Amendment No.1948 (to Amendment No. 1959). **Page S965**

A motion was entered to close further debate on Grassley Amendment No. 1959, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of Schumer Modified Amendment No. 1958 (to the language proposed to be stricken by Amendment No. 1959). **Page S965**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, February 15, 2018. **Page S1130**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Margaret Weichert, of Georgia, to be Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget. **Pages S965, S1130**

2 Coast Guard nominations in the rank of admiral. **Pages S965, S1130**

Messages from the House: **Page S967**

Measures Referred: **Page S967**

Enrolled Bills Presented: **Page S967**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S967**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S967–69**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:
Page S969

Additional Statements: **Pages S966–67**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S969–S1129**

Authorities for Committees to Meet:
Pages S1129–30

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S1130**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:37 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, February 15, 2018. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1130.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

READINESS OF U.S. FORCES

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support concluded a hearing to examine the current readiness of United States forces, after receiving testimony from General James C. McConville, USA, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, Admiral William F. Moran, USN, Vice Chief of Naval Operations, General Glenn M. Walters, USMC, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, and General Stephen W. Wilson, USAF, Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force, all of the Department of Defense.

MILITARY FAMILY READINESS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Personnel concluded a hearing to examine military and civilian personnel programs and military family readiness, including S. 2379, to improve and expand authorities, programs, services, and benefits for military spouses and military families, after receiving testimony from Robert L. Wilkie, Jr., Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Lieutenant General Thomas C. Seamands, USA, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1, Vice Admiral Robert P. Burke, USN, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, N-1, Lieutenant General Gina M. Grosso, USAF, Deputy Chief of Staff for

Manpower, Personnel and Services, and Lieutenant General Michael A. Rocco, USMC, Deputy Commandant for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, all of the Department of Defense; Kathy Roth-Douquet, Blue Star Families, and Kelly B. Hruska, National Military Family Association, both of Washington, D.C.; and J. Michael Haynie, Syracuse University Institute for Veterans and Military Families, Syracuse, New York.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Joseph Simons, of Virginia, who was introduced by Senator Hatch, Christine S. Wilson, of Virginia, who was introduced by Senator Capito, Noah Joshua Phillips, of Maryland, who was introduced by Senator Cornyn, and Rohit Chopra, of New York, each to be a Federal Trade Commissioner, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

NATIONAL PARKS LEGISLATION

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks concluded a hearing to examine S. 400, to establish the Susquehanna National Heritage Area in the State of Pennsylvania, S. 966, to establish a program to accurately document vehicles that were significant in the history of the United States, S. 1160, to include Livingston County, the city of Jonesboro in Union County, and the city of Freeport in Stephenson County, Illinois, to the Lincoln National Heritage Area, S. 1260 and H.R. 2615, bills to authorize the exchange of certain land located in Gulf Islands National Seashore, Jackson County, Mississippi, between the National Park Service and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, S. 1335, to establish the Ste. Genevieve National Historic Site in the State of Missouri, S. 1446 and H.R. 1135, bills to reauthorize the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Historic Preservation program, S. 1472, to reauthorize the Tennessee Civil War Heritage Area, S. 1573, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to place signage on Federal land along the trail known as the "American Discovery Trail", S. 1602, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land as the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area, S. 1645, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of P.S. 103 in West Baltimore, Maryland, S. 1646, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of President Station in Baltimore,

Maryland, S. 1692, to authorize the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, S. 1956 and H.R. 2897, bills to authorize the Mayor of the District of Columbia and the Director of the National Park Service to enter into cooperative management agreements for the operation, maintenance, and management of units of the National Park System in the District of Columbia, S. 2102, to clarify the boundary of Acadia National Park, S. 2213 and H.R. 4300, bills to authorize Pacific Historic Parks to establish a commemorative display to honor members of the United States Armed Forces who served in the Pacific Theater of World War II, S. 2225, to reauthorize the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area, S. 2238, to amend the Ohio & Erie Canal National Heritage Canalway Act of 1996 to repeal the funding limitation, H.R. 1397, to authorize, direct, facilitate, and expedite the transfer of administrative jurisdiction of certain Federal land, and H.R. 1500, to redesignate the small triangular property located in Washington, DC, and designated by the National Park Service as reservation 302 as “Robert Emmet Park”, after receiving testimony from P. Daniel Smith, Deputy Director, Exercising the Authority of the Director of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

BUDGET

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President’s proposed budget request for fiscal year 2019, after receiving testimony from Steven T. Mnuchin, Secretary of the Treasury.

BUDGET

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President’s proposed budget request for fiscal year 2019, after receiving testimony from David J. Kautter, Acting Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 2221, to repeal the multi-State plan program, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2296, to increase access to agency guidance documents, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2400, to eliminate or modify certain audit mandates of the Government Accountability Office;

S. 2113, to amend title 41, United States Code, to improve the manner in which Federal contracts for design and construction services are awarded, to

prohibit the use of reverse auctions for design and construction services procurements;

S. 2349, to direct the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to establish an interagency working group to study Federal efforts to collect data on sexual violence and to make recommendations on the harmonization of such efforts;

S. 2413, to provide for the appropriate use of bridge contracts in Federal procurement, with an amendment;

S. 2178, to require the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency to make open recommendations of Inspectors General publicly available, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

H.R. 2229, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide permanent authority for judicial review of certain Merit Systems Protection Board decisions relating to whistleblowers, with an amendment;

S. 931, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4910 Brighton Boulevard in Denver, Colorado, as the “George Sakato Post Office”;

S. 2040, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 621 Kansas Avenue in Atchison, Kansas, as the “Amelia Earhart Post Office Building”;

H.R. 294, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2700 Cullen Boulevard in Pearland, Texas, as the “Endy Nddiobong Ekpanya Post Office Building”;

H.R. 452, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 324 West Saint Louis Street in Pacific, Missouri, as the “Specialist Jeffrey L. White, Jr. Post Office”;

H.R. 1207, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 306 River Street in Tilden, Texas, as the “Tilden Veterans Post Office”;

H.R. 1208, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9155 Schaefer Road, Converse, Texas, as the “Converse Veterans Post Office Building”;

H.R. 1858, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4514 Williamson Trail in Liberty, Pennsylvania, as the “Staff Sergeant Ryan Scott Ostrom Post Office”;

H.R. 1988, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1730 18th Street in Bakersfield, California, as the “Merle Haggard Post Office Building”;

H.R. 2254, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2635 Napa Street in Vallejo, California, as the “Janet Capello Post Office Building”;

H.R. 2302, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 259 Nassau Street,

Suite 2 in Princeton, New Jersey, as the “Dr. John F. Nash, Jr. Post Office”;

H.R. 2464, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25 New Chardon Street Lobby in Boston, Massachusetts, as the “John Fitzgerald Kennedy Post Office”;

H.R. 2672, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 520 Carter Street in Fairview, Illinois, as the “Sgt. Douglas J. Riney Post Office”;

H.R. 2815, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 30 East Somerset Street in Raritan, New Jersey, as the “Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone Post Office”;

H.R. 2873, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 207 Glenside Avenue in Wyncote, Pennsylvania, as the “Staff Sergeant Peter Taub Post Office Building”;

H.R. 3109, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1114 North 2nd Street in Chillicothe, Illinois, as the “Sr. Chief Ryan Owens Post Office Building”;

H.R. 3369, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 225 North Main Street in Spring Lake, North Carolina, as the “Howard B. Pate, Jr. Post Office”;

H.R. 3638, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1100 Kings Road in Jacksonville, Florida, as the “Rutledge Pearson Post Office Building”;

H.R. 3655, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1300 Main Street in Belmar, New Jersey, as the “Dr. Walter S. McAfee Post Office Building”;

H.R. 3821, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 430 Main Street in Clermont, Georgia, as the “Zach T. Addington Post Office”;

H.R. 3893, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Mathe Avenue in Interlachen, Florida, as the “Robert H. Jenkins, Jr. Post Office”;

H.R. 4042, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1415 West Oak Street, in Kissimmee, Florida, as the “Borinqueneers Post Office Building”;

H.R. 4285, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 Bridgeton Pike in Mullica Hill, New Jersey, as the “James C. ‘Billy’ Johnson Post Office Building”; and

The nominations of Jeff Tien Han Pon, of Virginia, to be Director, and Michael Rigas, of Massa-

chusetts, to be Deputy Director, both of the Office of Personnel Management.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 995, to provide for equitable compensation to the Spokane Tribe of Indians of the Spokane Reservation for the use of tribal land for the production of hydropower by the Grand Coulee Dam, with an amendment; and

S. 1953, to amend the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 and the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act to provide for advancements in public safety services to Indian communities, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

NATIVE AMERICANS AND THE 2020 CENSUS OVERSIGHT

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine Native Americans and the 2020 Census, after receiving testimony from Ron Jarmin, Performing the Non-Exclusive Functions and Duties of the Director, Census Bureau; Carol Gore, Cook Inlet Housing Authority, Anchorage, Alaska; Jefferson Keel, National Congress of American Indians, Washington, D.C.; and James Thomas Tucker, Native American Rights Fund, Las Vegas, Nevada.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Joel M. Carson III, of New Mexico, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, who was introduced by Senator Udall, Colm F. Connolly, and Maryellen Noreika, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of Delaware, who were introduced by Senator Carper, William F. Jung, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, who was introduced by Senator Nelson, and Ryan T. Holte, of Ohio, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of David Christian Tryon, of Ohio, to be Chief Counsel for Advocacy, who was introduced by Representative Chabot, and Hannibal Ware, of the Virgin Islands, to be Inspector General, both of the Small Business Administration, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 19 public bills, H.R. 5011–5029; and 1 resolution, H. Res. 738 were introduced. **Pages H1177–78**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H1178–79**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Fitzpatrick to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H1129**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:41 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H1133**

Suspensions—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures. Consideration began Tuesday, February 13th.

Hamas Human Shields Prevention Act: H.R. 3542, amended, to impose sanctions against Hamas for gross violations of internationally recognized human rights by reason of the use of civilians as human shields, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 415 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 74; **Page H1146**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To impose sanctions against Hamas for violating universally applicable international laws of armed conflict by intentionally using civilians and civilian property to shield military objectives from lawful attack, and for other purposes.”; **Page H1146**

Calling on the Department of Defense, other elements of the Federal Government, and foreign governments to intensify efforts to investigate, recover, and identify all missing and unaccounted-for personnel of the United States: H. Res. 129, amended, calling on the Department of Defense, other elements of the Federal Government, and foreign governments to intensify efforts to investigate, recover, and identify all missing and unaccounted-for personnel of the United States, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 411 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 75; and **Page H1147**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “Calling on the Department of Defense, other appropriate elements of the Federal Government, and foreign governments to resolutely continue efforts to investigate, recover, and identify all United States personnel designated as unaccounted-for from past wars and conflicts around the world.”. **Page H1147**

Authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holo-

caust: The House agreed to discharge from committee and agreed to H. Con. Res. 103, authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust. **Page H1147**

TRID Improvement Act: The House passed H.R. 3978, to amend the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 to modify requirements related to mortgage disclosures, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 271 yeas to 145 nays, Roll No. 77. **Pages H1155–69**

Rejected Capuano the motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Financial Services with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 189 yeas to 228 nays, Roll No. 76. **Pages H1166–68**

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 115–59, modified by the amendment printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–559, shall be considered as adopted. **Page H1155**

Agreed to:

Foster amendment (No. 1 printed in part C of H. Rept. 115–559) that clarifies that the requirement applies only to proprietary source code related to algorithmic trading, which contains prescriptive information. **Page H1165**

H. Res. 736, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 620), (H.R. 3299), and (H.R. 3978) was agreed to by a recorded vote of 227 yeas to 187 noes, Roll No. 73, after the previous question was ordered by a yeas-and-nays vote of 228 yeas to 187 nays, Roll No. 72. **Pages H1136–46**

Protecting Consumers’ Access to Credit Act: The House passed H.R. 3299, to amend the Revised Statutes, the Home Owners’ Loan Act, the Federal Credit Union Act, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to require the rate of interest on certain loans remain unchanged after transfer of the loan, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 245 yeas to 171 nays, Roll No. 78. **Pages H1147–55, H1169**

H. Res. 736, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 620), (H.R. 3299), and (H.R. 3978) was agreed to by a recorded vote of 227 yeas to 187 noes, Roll No. 73, after the previous question was ordered by a yeas-and-nays vote of 228 yeas to 187 nays, Roll No. 72. **Pages H1136–46**

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourns to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow, February 15th. **Page H1169**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Six yeas-and-nays votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1145, H1145–46,

H1146, H1147, H1167–68, H1168–69, and H1169. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Committee Meetings

THE MILITARY AND SECURITY CHALLENGES AND POSTURE IN THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Military and Security Challenges and Posture in the Indo-Pacific Region”. Testimony was heard from Admiral Harry Harris, Jr., Commander, U.S. Pacific Command.

AIR FORCE READINESS POSTURE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness held a hearing entitled “Air Force Readiness Posture”. Testimony was heard from the following U.S. Air Force officials: Lieutenant General Mark C. Nowland, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations; Lieutenant General Scott L. Rice, Director, Air National Guard; and Major General Derek P. Rydholm, Deputy to the Chief of Air Force Reserve.

THE PRESIDENT’S FISCAL YEAR 2019 BUDGET

Committee on the Budget: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The President’s Fiscal Year 2019 Budget”. Testimony was heard from Mick Mulvaney, Director, Office of Management and Budget.

EXAMINING THE GOVERNMENT’S MANAGEMENT OF NATIVE AMERICAN SCHOOLS

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education held a hearing entitled “Examining the Government’s Management of Native American Schools”. Testimony was heard from Tony Dearman, Director, Bureau of Indian Education, Department of the Interior.

OVERSIGHT OF THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection held a hearing entitled “Oversight of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration”. Testimony was heard from Heidi King, Deputy Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

EXAMINING THE IMPACT OF HEALTH CARE CONSOLIDATION

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled

“Examining the Impact of Health Care Consolidation”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

NEW SOURCE REVIEW PERMITTING CHALLENGES FOR MANUFACTURING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Environment held a hearing entitled “New Source Review Permitting Challenges for Manufacturing and Infrastructure”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Committee on Energy and Commerce held a markup on H.R. 3477, the “Ceiling Fan Energy Conservation Harmonization Act”; H.R. 1876, the “Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act of 2017”; and H.R. 4986, the “FCC Reauthorization Act of 2018”. H.R. 3477 was ordered reported, without amendment. H.R. 1876 and H.R. 4986 were ordered reported, as amended.

EXAMINING THE CURRENT DATA SECURITY AND BREACH NOTIFICATION REGULATORY REGIME

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit held a hearing entitled “Examining the Current Data Security and Breach Notification Regulatory Regime”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS REGARDING DERIVATIVES

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Securities, and Investment held a hearing entitled “Legislative Proposals Regarding Derivatives”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MODERNIZING FOOD AID: IMPROVING EFFECTIVENESS AND SAVING LIVES

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Modernizing Food Aid: Improving Effectiveness and Saving Lives”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

ISRAEL, THE PALESTINIANS, AND THE ADMINISTRATION’S PEACE PLAN

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa held a hearing entitled “Israel, the Palestinians, and the Administration’s Peace Plan”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

ADVANCING U.S. INTERESTS THROUGH THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere held a hearing entitled “Advancing U.S. Interests Through the Organization of American States”. Testimony was heard from Thomas Melito, Director, International Affairs and Trade, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 835, to update the map of, and modify the maximum acreage available for inclusion in, the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument; H.R. 4134, the “Cecil D. Andrus-White Clouds Wilderness Redesignation Act”; and H.R. 4895, the “Medgar Evers National Monument Act”. H.R. 835 and H.R. 4134 were ordered reported, without amendment. H.R. 4895 was ordered reported, as amended.

THE STATE OF THE NATION’S WATER AND POWER INFRASTRUCTURE

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans held a hearing entitled “The State of the Nation’s Water and Power Infrastructure”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

GAME CHANGERS: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE PART I

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Information Technology held a hearing entitled “Game Changers: Artificial Intelligence Part I”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

BEYOND BITCOIN: EMERGING APPLICATIONS FOR BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Oversight; and Subcommittee on Research and Technology held a joint hearing entitled “Beyond Bitcoin: Emerging Applications for Blockchain Technology”. Testimony was heard from Chris A. Jaikaran, Analyst in Cybersecurity Policy, Government and Finance Division, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress; Charles H. Romine, Director, Information Technology Laboratory, National Institute of Standards and Technology; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a markup on the Committee’s budget views and estimates for fiscal year 2019. The Committee’s budget

views and estimates for fiscal year 2019 were adopted.

JOB CREATION, COMPETITION, AND SMALL BUSINESS’ ROLE IN THE UNITED STATES ECONOMY

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Job Creation, Competition, and Small Business’ Role in the United States Economy”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Full Committee held a markup on fiscal year 2019 budget views and estimates, and Committee rosters; H.R. 4921, the “STB Information Security Improvement Act”; and H.R. 4925, the “FRA Safety Data Improvement Act”. The Committee’s fiscal year 2019 budget views and estimates, and Full Committee and Subcommittee rosters, were approved. H.R. 4921 was ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 4925 was ordered reported, without amendment.

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES’ FISCAL YEAR 2019 BUDGET REQUEST

Committee on Ways and Means: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Department of Health and Human Services’ Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Request”. Testimony was heard from Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2018

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: to hold hearings to examine the state of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, focusing on pending rules, cryptocurrency regulation, and cross-border agreements, 9:30 a.m., SR-328A.

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine United States Northern Command and United States Southern Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2019 and the Future Years Defense Program, 9:30 a.m., SD-G50.

Committee on Finance: business meeting to consider the nominations of Dennis Shea, of Virginia, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Geneva Office), with the rank of Ambassador, and C. J. Mahoney, of Kansas, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Investment, Services, Labor, Environment, Africa, China,

and the Western Hemisphere), with the rank of Ambassador; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2019, 9 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Andrea L. Thompson, of South Dakota, to be Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security, Susan A. Thornton, of Maine, to be an Assistant Secretary (East Asian and Pacific Affairs), and Francis R. Fannon, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary (Energy Resources), all of Department of State, 10 a.m., SD-419.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider S. 1917, to reform sentencing laws and correctional institutions, and the nominations of Michael B. Brennan, of Wisconsin, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit, Susan Paradise Baxter, and Marilyn Jean Horan, both to be a United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, Daniel Desmond Domenico, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado, Adam I. Klein, of the District of Columbia, to be Chairman and Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, McGregor W. Scott, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of California, Gary G. Schofield, to be United States Marshal for the District of Nevada for the term of four years, and Jonathan F. Mitchell, of Washington, to be Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States, 10 a.m., SD-226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: closed business meeting to consider pending calendar business; to be immediately followed by a closed briefing regarding certain intelligence matters, 2 p.m., SH-219.

House

Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Strategic Competition with China", 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, hearing entitled "Evolution, Transformation, and Sustainment: A Review and Assessment of the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Request for U.S. Special Operations Forces and Command", 2 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions; and Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, joint hearing entitled "The Opioids Epidemic: Implications for America's Workplaces", 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled "Oversight of the Department of Health and Human Services", 12:30 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit, hearing entitled "Examining De-risking and its Effect on Access to Financial Services", 9:30 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection, hearing entitled "Industry Views of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program", 10 a.m., HVC-210.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security, hearing entitled "The Effect of Sanctuary City Policies on the Ability to Combat the Opioid Epidemic", 9 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled "The Costs of Denying Border Patrol Access: Our Environment and Security", 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing on H.R. 520, the "National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act", 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Federal Lands, hearing on H.R. 2591, the "Modernizing the Pittman-Robertson Fund for Tomorrow's Needs Act of 2017"; H.R. 4429, the "Cormorant Control Act"; H.R. 4609, the "West Fork Fire Station Act of 2017"; H.R. 4647, the "Recovering America's Wildlife Act"; and H.R. 4851, the "Kennedy-King Establishment Act of 2018", 2:30 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Subcommittee on Government Operations hearing entitled "General Services Administration—Checking in with the Government's Acquisition and Property Manager", 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Research and Technology, hearing entitled "Mentoring, Training, and Apprenticeships for STEM Education and Careers", 9 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Energy, and Trade, hearing entitled "Restoring Rural America: How Agritech is Revitalizing the Heartland", 9:30 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials, hearing entitled "Oversight of Positive Train Control Implementation in the United States", 9:30 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Full Committee, hearing entitled "U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2019", 10:30 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, Full Committee, hearing entitled "The President's Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Proposals", 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Thursday, February 15

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Thursday, February 15

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will continue consideration of H.R. 2579, Broader Options for Americans Act.

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Complete consideration of H.R. 620—ADA Education and Reform Act.

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