March 18, 2021. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1620.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

INCOME AND WEALTH INEQUALITY

Committee on the Budget: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the income and wealth inequality crisis in America, after receiving testimony from Robert B. Reich, University of California Goldman School of Public Policy, Berkeley; Sarah Anderson, Institute for Policy Studies, John W. Lettieri, Economic Innovation Group, and Scott Winship, American Enterprise Institute, all of Washington, D.C.; and Jennifer Bates, Amazon BHM1, Bessemer, Alabama.

EXPANDING BROADBAND

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine recent Federal actions to expand broadband, after receiving testimony from Christopher Ali, University of Virginia Department of Media Studies, Charlottesville; Michael P. O'Rielly, former Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission, Arlington, Virginia; Jon Wilkins, Quadra Partners, Washington, D.C.; and Justin Forde, Midcontinent Communications, West Fargo, North Dakota.

DRINKING WATER AND WASTE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a joint hearing with the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Water to examine the challenges facing drinking water and waste water infrastructure projects, after receiving testimony from Shellie R. Chard, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, Oklahoma City, on behalf of the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators; Kishia L. Powell, DC Water, Washington, D.C., on behalf of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies; Michael McNulty, Morgantown Utility Board, Morgantown, West Virginia; and Nathan Ohle, Rural Community Assistance Partnership, Falls Church, Virginia.

COVID–19 IN NURSING HOMES

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine COVID–19 in the Nation's nursing homes, including steps taken by the Department of Health and Human Services in response to pandemic, after receiving testimony from John E. Dicken, Director, Health Care, Government Accountability Office; Adelina Ramos, SEIU District 1199 New England, Greenville, Rhode Island; Denise Bottcher, AARP Louisiana, Baton Rouge; R. Tamara Konetzka, University of Chicago Department of Public Health Sciences, Chicago, Illinois; Quiteka Moten, State of Tennessee Long Term Care Ombudsman, Nashville; and David R. Gifford, American Health Care Association/National Center for Assisted Living, Washington, D.C.

STRATEGIC COMPETITION WITH CHINA

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine advancing effective U.S. policy for strategic competition with China in the twenty-first century, after receiving testimony from Elizabeth Economy, Council on Foreign Relations, New York, New York; and Thomas H. Shugart III, Center for New American Security, and Saif M. Khan, Georgetown University Center for Security and Emerging Technology, both of Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

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

S. 231, to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to develop guidance for firefighters and other emergency response personnel on best practices to protect them from exposure to PFAS and to limit and prevent the release of PFAS into the environment, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 272, to amend the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, to require the budget justifications and appropriation requests of agencies be made publicly available, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 583, to promote innovative acquisition techniques and procurement strategies;

S. 517, to provide for joint reports by relevant Federal agencies to Congress regarding incidents of terrorism;

S. 671, to require the collection of voluntary feedback on services provided by agencies;

S. 693, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for the halt in pension payments for Members of Congress sentenced for certain offenses;

S. 658, to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to work with cybersecurity consortia for training;

S. 636, to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to submit to Congress an annual report on projects that are over budget and behind schedule, with an amendment;

S. 688, to prohibit contracting with persons that have business operations with the Maduro regime;

S. 522, to require each agency, in providing notice of a rule making, to include a link to a 100 word plain language summary of the proposed rule;

S. 111, to establish the Federal Clearinghouse on School Safety Best Practices;

S. 664, to require the Comptroller General of the United States to review certain legislation in order to identify potential risks of duplication of and overlap with existing Federal programs, offices, and initiatives;

S. 566, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 42 Main Street in Slatersville, Rhode Island, as the "Specialist Matthew R. Turcotte Post Office";

H.R. 208, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 500 West Main Street, Suite 102 in Tupelo, Mississippi, as the "Colonel Carlyle 'Smitty' Harris Post Office"; and

H.R. 264, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1101 Charlotte Street in Georgetown, South Carolina, as the "Joseph Hayne Rainey Memorial Post Office Building".

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Vivek Hallegere Murthy, of Florida, to be Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service, and to be Surgeon General of the Public Health Service, and Rachel Leland Levine, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary, both of the Department of Health and Human Services.

EQUALITY ACT

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Equality Act, focusing on LGBTQ rights, after receiving testimony from Senators Merkley, Baldwin, Blackburn, Hyde-Smith, and Lankford; Representatives Cicilline, Newman, and Hartzler; Alphonso David, Human Rights Campaign, New York, New York; Edith Guffey, PFLAG National, Lawrence, Kansas; Mary Hasson, Ethics and Public Policy Center, Washington, D.C.; Stella Keating, Tacoma, Washington; and Abigail Shrier, Los Angeles, California.

PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Paycheck Protection Program, focusing on performance, impact, and next steps, including S. 723, to amend the Small Business Act and the CARES Act to extend the covered period for the paycheck protection program, after receiving testimony from Lisa Mensah, Opportunity Finance Network, and Joel Griffith, The Heritage Foundation, both of Washington, D.C.; John K. Hoey, The Y in Central Maryland, Baltimore; and Brad Polumbo, Foundation for Economic Education, Arlington, Virginia.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 43 public bills, H.R. 1953–1995; and 8 resolutions, H. Res. 243–250, were introduced. **Pages H1497–H1500**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H1501–02**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment: The House passed H.J. Res. 17, removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment, by a yea-and-nay vote of 222 yeas to 204 nays, Roll No. 82. **Pages H1419–32, H1475–76**

H. Res. 233, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 1620), (H.R. 6), (H.R. 1603), (H.R. 1868), and the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 17) was agreed to yesterday, March 16th.

Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2021: The House passed H.R. 1620, to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, by a yea-and-nay vote of 244 yeas to 172 nays, Roll No. 86. **Pages H1432–75, H1476–79**

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117–3, modified by the amendment printed in part A of H. Rept. 117–12, shall be considered as adopted. **Page H1432**

Agreed to:

Nadler en bloc amendment No. 1 consisting of the following amendments printed in part B of H. Rept. 117–12: Burgess (No. 1) that requires the DOJ and HHS to issue guidance and best practices on strategies to improve coordination of sexual assault forensic examination training and program sustainability; Bush (No. 2) that ensures that survivors can access transitional housing and be protected from unfair evictions and denial of service; Bush (No. 3)