



1. [H.R. 5458 – Veterans TRICARE Choice Act](#)
2. [H.R. 6135 – To designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 719 Church Street in Nashville, Tennessee, as the "Fred D. Thompson Federal Building and United States Courthouse"](#)
3. [House Amendment to S. 546 – RESPONSE Act of 2016](#)
4. [House Amendment to S. 2577 – Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016](#)
5. [H.R. 5422 – To ensure funding for the National Human Trafficking Hotline, and for other purposes](#)
6. [H.R. 5877 – United States-Israel Advanced Research Partnership Act of 2016](#)
7. [H.R. 5843 – United States-Israel Cybersecurity Cooperation Enhancement Act of 2016](#)
8. [H.R. 4757 – To amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the eligibility for headstones, markers, and medallions furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for deceased individuals who were awarded the Medal of Honor and are buried in private cemeteries, as amended](#)
9. [H.R. 5399 – Ethical Patient Care for Veterans Act of 2016](#)
10. [H.R. 5047 – Protecting Veterans’ Educational Choice Act of 2016](#)
11. [H.R. 5166 – WINGMAN Act, as amended](#)
12. [H.R. 3286 – HIRE Vets Act, as amended](#)
13. [H.R. 5600 – No Hero Left Untreated Act, as amended](#)
14. [H.R. 6323 – To name the Department of Veterans Affairs health care system in Long Beach, California, the "Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center"](#)
15. [H. Con. Res 165 – Expressing the sense of Congress and reaffirming longstanding United States policy in support of a direct bilaterally negotiated settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and opposition to United Nations Security Council resolutions imposing a solution to the conflict](#)
16. [H. Con. Res. 40 – Encouraging reunions of divided Korean American families](#)

H.R. 5458 — Veterans TRICARE Choice Act (Rep. Stewart, R-UT)

CONCT: [Rebekah Armstrong](#), 202-226-0678

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

November 29, 2016 under a suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 5458](#) would allow for the coordination between the TRICARE program and eligibility for making contributions to health savings accounts.

COST:

The staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation estimates that the legislation would reduce revenues by \$97 million over the 2017-2026 period. That change in revenues includes a reduction of \$41 million that would result from changes in off-budget revenues (from Social Security payroll taxes).

[CBO](#) estimates that effects on direct spending and spending subject to appropriation would be insignificant in any year and in total over the 2017-2026 period.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

Under current law, an individual enrolled in a high-deductible health plan is eligible to make pre-tax contributions to a health savings account (HSA). However, individuals covered by a high-deductible plan as well as being enrolled in TRICARE are ineligible to make contributions to an HSA. According to the [committee report](#), in some instances individuals are automatically enrolled in TRICARE and are unable to opt-out under current law.

This bill would allow a TRICARE-eligible individual to elect at any time to be ineligible to enroll in TRICARE. If the individual chooses to reenroll in TRICARE, it must take place during a special enrollment period. In addition, the secretary would provide information on HSAs to those who choose to be ineligible for TRICARE.

The secretary would be required to submit an annual report on the elections by TRICARE-eligible individuals and the number who are ineligible to enroll and receive benefits under TRICARE.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

This bill was introduced by Representative Stewart on June 13, 2016 and referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. The committee held a mark-up on November 14, 2016, and the bill was reported out, as amended, by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor, Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1.

H.R. 6135: To designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 719 Church Street in Nashville, Tennessee, as the "Fred D. Thompson Federal Building and United States Courthouse". (Rep. Blackburn, R-TN)

CONTACT: [Matt Dickerson](#), 202-226-9718

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

November 29, 2016 under a suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 6315](#) would name a federal building and courthouse in Nashville, Tennessee, after former Senator Fred Thompson.

COST:

A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is not available.

Rule 28(a)(1) of the [Rules of the Republican Conference](#) prohibit measures from being scheduled for consideration under suspension of the rules without an accompanying cost estimate. Rule 28(b) provides that the cost estimate requirement may be waived by a majority of the Elected Leadership.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 6315 would name a federal building and courthouse in Nashville, Tennessee, after former [Senator Fred Thompson](#). He represented Tennessee from 1994 to 2003. Senator Thompson was also a well-known Hollywood actor, starring in roles on *Law and Order* and *The Hunt for Red October*. Thompson passed away in 2015.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 6315 was introduced on September 22, 2016, and referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. The Committee took no further action on the bill.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

"Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I Section 8". No enumerating clause was provided.

House Amendment to S. 546: RESPONSE Act of 2016 (Sen. Heitkamp, D-ND)

CONTACT: [Matt Dickerson](#), 202-226-9718

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

November 29, 2016 under a suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[The House Amendment to S. 546](#) would establish a Railroad Emergency Services Preparedness, Operational Needs, and Safety Evaluation (RESPONSE) Subcommittee under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Advisory Council, which would be charged with providing recommendations regarding emergency responder training for hazardous materials incidents involving railroads.

COST:

The [Congressional Budget Office](#) (CBO) estimates that enacting the House Amendment to S. 546 would "would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2017-2021 period to establish and staff the committee and to prepare the recommendations. Any such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds."

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** Yes.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) [National Advisory Council](#) (NAC) advises the FEMA Administrator on coordination of disaster response management. The NAC is made up of representatives of state, local, and tribal governments, as well as the private sector. It currently has four standing subcommittees and one ad hoc subcommittee focusing on different emergency response issues.

The House Amendment to S. 546 would establish a Railroad Emergency Services Preparedness, Operational Needs, and Safety Evaluation (RESPONSE) NAC Subcommittee. The RESPONSE Subcommittee would be charged with evaluating and providing recommendations on the adequacy of emergency responder training related to hazardous materials incidents involving railroads.

The membership of the RESPONSE Subcommittee would include the Deputy Administrator on Protection and National Preparedness of FEMA; the Chief Safety Officer of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA); the Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety of PHMSA; the Director of the Office of Emergency Communications of the Department of Homeland Security; the Director for the Office of Railroad, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Investigations of the National Transportation Safety Board; the Chief Safety Officer and Associate Administrator for Railroad Safety of the Federal Railroad Administration; the Assistant for Security Policy and Industry Engagement of the Transportation Security Administration; the Assistant Commandant for Response Policy of the Coast Guard; and, the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response of the Environmental Protection Agency; as well as others that may be appointed based on their expertise.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

S. 546 was introduced by Sen. Heitkamp on February 24, 2015, and referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. The Committee marked up and reported the bill by voice vote on [March 4, 2015](#). The Senate passed the bill on May 9, 2016, by unanimous consent.

In the House, the bill was referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. The Committee marked up and reported S. 546, with an amendment, on [September 14, 2016](#), by a voice vote. The House amendment to S. 546 would make changes to the membership of the RESPONSE subcommittee and remove language that has already been enacted into law. The Committee Report from the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee can be found [here](#).

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

Legislation originating in the Senate does not have a Constitutional Authority Statement.

House Amendment to S. 2577 – Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016 (Rep. Poe, R-TX)

CONTACT: [Jennifer Weinhart](#), 202-226-0706

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered on November 29, 2016 under a suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

The [House Amendment to S. 2577](#) would reauthorize the Justice for All Act to ensure justice for crime victims, strengthen victims' rights, increase access to restitution, improve the use of DNA testing, and establish safeguards to protect against wrongful convictions.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is not yet available.

The Majority Leader's office has indicated that CBO expects that the legislation would cost \$291.9 million over five years, or \$58.38 on average each year.

Rule 28(a)(1) of the [Rules of the Republican Conference](#) prohibit measures from being scheduled for consideration under suspension of the rules without an accompanying cost estimate. Rule 28(b) provides that the cost estimate requirement may be waived by a majority of the Elected Leadership.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

There are no substantive concerns.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

The [Justice for All Act](#), signed into [law](#) by President George W. Bush in 2004, sought to improve aspects of the criminal justice process, including providing for the protection of victims' rights, addressing DNA testing backlogs, and expanding DNA testing. This legislation would reauthorize the program.

A section-by-section from the Judiciary Committee can be found [here](#).

Section 2 of this legislation would address crime victims' rights, requiring enhanced provision of restitution for crime victims as an explicit condition of supervised release. It would require a GAO study within 180 days of enactment to determine whether enhanced provisions for restitution provide benefit to victims of crime, and would allow for an interpreter for the victim as needed.

Section 3 would address the need for the reduction of the rape kit backlog. It would ensure at least 75% of grant funds would be allocated toward testing in an effort to reduce the rape kit backlog for fiscal years 2017-2021. It would provide at least 5% of grant funds for law enforcement agencies to audit their backlogged cases, create a tracking system, and prioritize those cases that are soon to expire. It would require grant recipients to report on the effectiveness of their activities conducted with the received funds. It would also require the Attorney General to submit a report to congress on the distribution amounts and on the backlog and reduction attempts.

Section 4 of this bill would address Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program Grants. It would amend the DNA Sexual Assault Justice Act of 2004 to require the Attorney General to give preference to entities that hire [Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners](#) to those entities that will use the funds to: (1) improve programs in underserved or rural communities; (2) engage in practices that would lead to the hiring of forensic nurse examiners; or (3) create or maintain a training program for forensic nurse examiners. It would require the Attorney General and the Department of Health and Human Services to inform community health centers, universities, and qualified health centers about forensic nurses, and the resources available to employ forensic nurses.

Section 5 would eliminate the penalty found in the [Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003](#) (PREA) as it relates to the Services*Training*Officer*Prosecutors ([STOP](#)) formula grant program, which pertains to approaches in criminal justice responses to violent crimes against females, in order to maintain the protections in the [Violence Against Women Act](#).

Section 6 would clarify the Violence Against Women Act housing protections. It would require a public housing agency that evicts a tenant that is the only tenant in the household that receives housing assistance, to allow remaining residents the chance to establish eligibility for housing programs.

Section 7 would amend the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), to ensure that any states receiving grant funds have adopted all national prison rape standards, and that the states demonstrate to the Attorney General that they are working to be in compliance with the national standards. It would amend PREA to allow a state that could see a reduction of 5% of either its Byrne Justice Assistance Grant or Juvenile Justice Formula Grant for noncompliance with national standards, and to request that the Attorney General maintain their funds in abeyance into a later year when they are in compliance and are eligible.

Section 8 would also reauthorize three additional programs:

- (1) DNA Research and Development—Last authorized at \$15,000,000 in 2009, though received no funding. This legislation would reauthorize the program at \$5,000,000 per fiscal year from 2017 through 2021.
- (2) FBI DNA Programs—Last authorized at \$42,100,000 in 2009, the program received \$39,600,000 in 2016. This legislation would reauthorize the program at \$7,400,000 for FY2017 and \$10,000,000 for fiscal years 2018 through 2021.
- (3) DNA Identification of Missing Persons—Last authorized at \$2,000,000 in 2009, though received no funding; this program gives grants to state and local authorities using forensic DNA technology to identify remains. This legislation would authorize the program at \$2,000,000 for fiscal years 2017 through 2021.

Section 9 would reauthorize and amend the [Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Program](#), to bolster efforts to improve state crime labs and processes by requiring offices or lab grantees, other than medical examiners' or coroners' offices, are accredited by a body that is a signatory to an internationally recognized arrangement that provides accreditation to forensic science conformity assessment bodies using an internationally recognized standard, or which will use a portion of the grant money to apply for an accreditation within 2 years of the awarding of funds. 85% of funds must be allocated to states based on population, with the remaining 15% allocated at the discretion of the Attorney General. Grant funds may also be used to address emerging forensic science issues, train pathologists, enable accreditation, and certify death investigators.

This program was last reauthorized in 2009 at \$20,000,000, receiving \$13,500,000 in FY2016. This legislation would reauthorize the program at:

- \$13,500,000 in FY 2017
- \$18,500,000 in FY 2018
- \$19,000,000 in FY 2019

- \$21,000,000 in FY 2020
- \$23,000,000 in FY 2021

Section 10 would reauthorize the [Capital Litigation Program](#), which was last authorized in 2009 at \$30,000,000, receiving roughly \$1,250,000 per year. This legislation would reauthorize the program at:

- \$2,500,000 in FY 2017
- \$7,500,000 in FY 2018
- \$12,500,000 in FY 2019
- \$17,500,000 in FY 2020
- \$22,500,000 in FY 2021

Section 11 would address post-conviction DNA testing, amending the U.S. Code so that following a [motion](#) under Title 18, section 3600, a court must order the Government to create an inventory of case evidence, and submit a copy to the court's inventory, the applicant, and the government. It would also require results of any DNA testing ordered under [Section 3600 of Title 18 of the U.S. Code](#), to be disclosed to the court, applicant, and the government.

This section would also rework section 3600(i) of Title 18, to allow a court to order a law enforcement entity that has jurisdiction and access to the [National DNA Index System](#) to submit a DNA profile obtained from crime scene evidence, to determine if it matches any unsolved crimes, if the DNA profile obtained through testing that excludes the applicant as the source meets FBI requirements for the National DNA Index System. It also removes 2 limitations on the rule that the government must preserve biological evidence obtained in the investigation and prosecution of a federal crime, so long as the defendant is in prison for the crime. The limitations prohibit the rule from applying when (1) the court has denied a motion for DNA testing by the defendant under section 3600, and no appeal is pending, and (2) the defendant knowingly and of his own volition waived the right to request DNA testing of evidence after the enactment of the Innocence Protection Act of 2004.

Section 12 would renew the [Kirk Bloodsworth Post-Conviction DNA Testing program](#), which gives funds to states to assist with costs pertaining to post-conviction DNA testing. Last authorized in 2009, receiving no funding in FY 2016. A similar program received \$4,000,000. This legislation would reauthorize the program at \$10,000,000 per fiscal year from 2017 through 2021.

This section would also amend the [Justice for All Act of 2004](#), so that funds provided under Title IV are reserved for eligible entities providing certification that the state or jurisdiction:

- Provides DNA testing of evidence under state or local rule to those sentenced to the death penalty or imprisonment for a state felony offense, that allow for a process to examine claims of innocence using either Title 18 Section 3600 post-conviction DNA testing, or if the applicant is excluded as the source of the DNA, allows the application for post-conviction relief, unless a provision of law judges it untimely; and
- Preserves biological evidence under state or local statute that ensures that reasonable efforts are taken to preserve said evidence in relation to the investigation or prosecution of murder, non-negligent manslaughter, or sexual offences.

Section 13 would establish best practices for evidence protection within one year of enactment, allowing the National Institute for Justice to assist state, local and tribal governments in adopting best practices.

Section 14 would ensure effective administration of criminal justice by amending the [Byrne JAG program](#) so that applicants applying for grants submit a statewide plan. The Attorney General would be authorized to submit technical assistance to state and local governments in helping them develop strategic plans. It would permit between \$5,000,000 and \$10,000,000 of Byrne JAG funding per fiscal year from 2017-2021 to carry out the creation of comprehensive statewide plans.

Section 15 would ensure oversight and accountability; all grants authorized under this bill are subject to audit requirements and mandatory exclusion if not in compliance. The Attorney General will prioritize eligible entities.

Section 16 would require the Attorney General to submit a needs assessment and report on the nation's forensic laboratories, and the needs of the forensic science community.

Section 17 would clarify that the Director of Victims of Crime would be required to make grants for both victim services demonstration projects.

Finally, **Section 18** would increase victims' access to restitution by requiring the Attorney General to evaluate the U.S. Attorneys' offices and the Department of Justice on their performance in seeking and recovering victims' restitution authorized under this legislation and under the [Controlled Substances Act](#). It would also require a GAO report to Congress.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

S. 2577 was introduced on February 24, 2016 and was referred to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, where it passed, with amendments, on June 16, 2016.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not yet available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

Constitutional Authority Statements are not required for Senate legislation.

H.R. 5422 – To ensure funding for the National Human Trafficking Hotline, and for other purposes

CONTACT: [Jennifer Weinhart](#), 202-226-0706

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered on November 29, 2016 under a suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 5422](#) would amend the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, removing the provision that requires the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) grants funding the National Human Trafficking Hotline be managed by the Justice Department. Instead, the hotline would be managed through HHS.

COST:

A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is not yet available.

According to information provided courtesy of the Majority Leader's office, CBO has indicated the bill would have no effect on direct spending or revenues.

Rule 28(a)(1) of the Rules of the Republican Conference prohibit measures from being scheduled for consideration under suspension of the rules without an accompanying cost estimate. Rule 28(b) provides that the cost estimate requirement may be waived by a majority of the Elected Leadership.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

There are no substantive concerns.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

Under the [Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000](#), grants pertaining to the operation of the National Human Trafficking Hotline would be allocated by the Attorney General through the Justice Department. This legislation would remove that provision of the law, so that grants funding the hotline are managed by the Department of Health and Human Services.

The Human Trafficking Hotline is a national toll-free [hotline](#), run by the non-profit Polaris, which assists victims and survivors of human trafficking, helping them to get needed support and services.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 5422 was introduced on June 9, 2016 and was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary, where it was ordered reported by voice vote on November 16, 2016.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not yet available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

H.R. 5877 — United States-Israel Advanced Research Partnership Act of 2016, as amended (Rep. Ratcliffe, R-TX)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on November 29, 2016 under suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 5877](#) would authorize the Department of Homeland Security in coordination with the Department of State to enter cooperative programs with Israel to enhance cybersecurity capabilities.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that implementing H.R. 5877 would not significantly affect spending by DHS. Because enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 5877 would amend the [Homeland Security Act of 2002](#) and the [United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014](#) to authorize the Department of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Department of State, to enter cooperative programs with Israel to enhance cybersecurity capabilities. Specifically, the bill would authorize the Under Secretary for Science and Technology, in coordination with the Department of State and appropriate federal officials, to enter into cooperative research activities with Israel to strengthen preparedness against cyber threats and enhance capabilities in cybersecurity. Further, the bill would amend report requirements to include: for international cooperative activities identified in the previous reporting period, a status update on the progress of such activities, including whether goals were realized, explaining any lessons learned, and evaluating overall success; and a discussion of obstacles encountered in the course of forming, executing, or implementing agreements for international cooperative activities, including administrative, legal, or diplomatic challenges or resource constraints.

H.R. 5877 would amend the authority of the Director of the Homeland Security Advanced Research Projects Agency to enter into cooperative research programs with Israel to enhance Israel's capabilities in cybersecurity.

No additional funds would be authorized to carry out the legislation.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 5877 was introduced on July 14, 2016 and was referred to the House Committee on Homeland Security. On November 15, 2016, the bill was ordered to be reported by the committee.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the bill's sponsor: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8, Clause 18--To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof." No enumerating clause was included.

H.R. 5843 — United States-Israel Cybersecurity Cooperation Enhancement Act of 2016, as amended (Rep. Langevin, D-RI)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on November 29, 2016 under suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 5843](#) would establish a grant program at the Department of Homeland Security to promote cooperative research and development, as well as the demonstration and commercialization of cybersecurity technology between the United States and Israel.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that the new grant program in H.R. 5843 would cost about \$1 million annually; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Enacting H.R. 5843 could affect direct spending if non-federal partners contribute funds for DHS to provide cybersecurity grants; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do apply. However, the net effect of collecting and spending those contributions would be negligible. Enacting H.R. 5843 would not affect revenues. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 5843 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2027.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

Some conservatives may be concerned that the bill would allow for funding of commercialization research, which would be more appropriately conducted by the private sector entities that stand to profit from such activities.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** The bill would create a new federal grant program to fund cybersecurity technology research.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** The bill would allow the Secretary of Homeland Security to use funds contributed by a government or private entity for the grant program without further appropriation from Congress.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 5843 would require the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to establish a grant program to support cybersecurity research and development, and the demonstration and commercialization of cybersecurity technology, in accordance with the [Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the State of Israel on Cooperation in Science and Technology for Homeland Security Matters](#), dated May 29, 2008. The Secretary of Homeland Security would require cost sharing of at least 50% by non-federal partners for activities funded under the legislation. Grant awards would be made only after an impartial review of the scientific and technical merit of the proposals has been carried out by or for the Department. H.R. 5843 would further clarify specific conditions for applying for the grant.

H.R. 5843 would establish an advisory board, composed of three Department-appointed members, to monitor the method by which grants are awarded, and provide to the Secretary of Homeland Security

periodic performance reviews of actions taken to carry out the legislation. One member would be a representative of the federal government; one would be selected from a list of nominees provided by the United States Israel Binational Science Foundation; and one would be selected from a list of nominees provided by the United States-Israel Binational Industrial Research and Development Foundation. The Secretary of Homeland Security would be authorized to accept, retain, and use funds contributed by any person, government entity, or organization for purposes of carrying out this grant program, without further appropriation, and without fiscal year limitation. Grants would be awarded only for projects considered unclassified by both the United States and Israel, and would terminate seven years after the bill's enactment. No additional funds would be authorized to be appropriated to carry out the legislation. The House report (H. Rept. 114-826) accompanying H.R. 5843 can be found [here](#).

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 5843 was introduced on July 14, 2016 and was referred to the House Committee on Homeland Security. On November 15, 2016, the bill was ordered to be reported (amended) by the committee.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the bill's sponsor: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the United States Constitution."

H.R. 4757 — To amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the eligibility for headstones, markers, and medallions furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for deceased individuals who were awarded the Medal of Honor and are buried in private cemeteries, as amended (Rep. Miller, R-FL)

CONCT: [Rebekah Armstrong](#), 202-226-0678

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

November 29, 2016 under a suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 4757](#) expand the eligibility for headstones, markers, and medals furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to those who are buried in private cemeteries.

COST:

An updated Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate that reflects the amended version of this bill is not available. According to information provided courtesy of the Majority Leader's office, any costs incurred by this bill would be insignificant.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.
- Encroach into State or Local Authority? No.
- Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch? No.
- Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits? No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

This bill would expand the eligibility for headstones, markers, and medals furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to those who are buried in private cemeteries and served in the Armed Forces on or after April 6, 1917. Currently, the secretary does not have the authority to provide special markers to those who are buried in private cemeteries.

In addition, this bill would expand eligibility the Presidential Memorial Certificate Program to all service members eligible for inurement in a national cemetery. This program sends a certificate that expresses the nation's recognition and gratitude of military service to the family of a deceased service member.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

This bill was introduced by Representative Miller on March 16, 2016 and referred to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. The committee held a mark-up on September 21, 2016, and the bill was reported out, as amended, by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor, Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8. No specific enumerating clause was included.

H.R. 5399 — Ethical Patient Care for Veterans Act (Rep. Roe, R-TN)

CONCT: [Rebekah Armstrong](#), 202-226-0678

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

November 29, 2016 under a suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 5399](#) would require the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure that each VA physician is informed of their duty to report any impaired, incompetent, and unethical health care activity to the appropriate state licensing authority.

COST:

The [Congressional Budget Office](#) (CBO) estimates that enacting H.R. 5399 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2027.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

This bill would require the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure that each VA physician is informed of their duty to report any impaired, incompetent, and unethical health care activity to the state licensing authority. Any report to the state authority should be made no more than five days after the unethical or incompetent activity.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

This bill was introduced by Representative Roe on June 7, 2016 and referred to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. The committee held a mark-up on September 21, 2016, and the bill was reported out by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor, Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution. No specific enumerating clause was included.

H.R. 5047 — Protecting Veterans' Educational Choice Act of 2016 (Rep. Hice, R-GA)

CONCT: [Rebekah Armstrong](#), 202-226-0678

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

November 29, 2016 under a suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 5047](#) would direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Labor to provide information to veterans and members of the armed forces about articulation agreements between institutions of higher learning.

COST:

The [Congressional Budget Office](#) (CBO) estimates that the cost of collecting the necessary information from educational institutions would be less than \$500,000 over the 2017-2021 period; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

This bill would direct the counselors at the Department of Veterans Affairs who provide educational or vocational counseling services to provide eligible individuals information about the articulation agreements of each institution of higher learning. When a veteran receives a certification of eligibility for educational assistance, the secretary would also be required to include information on educational assistance. An articulation agreement is a formal agreement between educational institutions setting out the process and policies for transferring academic credit.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

This bill was introduced by Representative Hice on March 25, 2016 and referred to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. The committee held a mark-up on September 21, 2016, and the bill was reported out by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor, Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8, Clause 12 of the United States Constitution which states that Congress shall have the power "To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years." Article I, Section 8, Clause 13 of the United States Constitution which states that Congress shall have the power "To provide and maintain a Navy." Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 of the United States Constitution which states that Congress shall have the power "To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces." Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution which states that Congress shall have the power "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for

carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

H.R. 5166 — WINGMAN Act, as amended (Rep. Yoho, R-FL)

CONCT: [Rebekah Armstrong](#), 202-226-0678

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

November 29, 2016 under a suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 5166](#) would permit a congressional employee to have read-only access to veteran records in the Veteran Benefits Administration if permitted by the veteran.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is not available.

Rule 28(a)(1) of the Rules of the Republican Conference prohibit measures from being scheduled for consideration under suspension of the rules without an accompanying cost estimate. Rule 28(b) provides that the cost estimate requirement may be waived by a majority of the Elected Leadership.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

This bill would permit no more than two congressional employees per district to have read-only access to veteran records in the Veteran Benefits Administration if permitted by the veteran. These employees must be permanent, full-time employees whose responsibilities include assisting constituents with issues regarding federal government agencies or departments. This would allow congressional caseworkers to better assist veterans in navigating the VA claims process.

No additional funds are authorized to carry out this section. For fiscal years 2017-2020, out of existing funding no more than \$10,000,000 may be made available to carry out this section.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

This bill was introduced by Representative Yoho on May 3, 2016 and referred to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. The committee held a mark-up on September 21, 2016, and the bill was reported out, as amended, by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor, Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8. No specific enumerating clause was included.

H.R. 3286 — HIRE Vets Act, as amended (Rep. Cook, R-CA)

CONCT: [Rebekah Armstrong](#), 202-226-0678

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

November 29, 2016 under a suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 3286](#) would require the Department of Labor to establish a program to solicit information from employers for the purposes of encouraging private sector investments to recruit, employ, and retain those who served in the military with annual presidential awards to private sector employers.

COST:

The [Congressional Budget Office](#) (CBO) estimate the costs of establishing the program in 2018 would not be covered by the fees created in the bill. CBO estimates those costs would total \$1 million, for personnel costs, medallions, and administrative supplies and would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** This bill creates a voluntary award program, funded by fees paid by employers, that requires specific hiring and retention targets created by the federal government.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

This bill would direct the Secretary of Labor to establish a HIRE Vets Medallion Program to solicit voluntary information from employers for the purposes of recognizing those who recruit, employ and train veterans, as well as provide community and charitable services supporting the veteran community. The year following the establishment of this program, the secretary would accept applications for the award and present them to the president. The president would notify recipients of the award in conjunction with Veterans Day. Those receiving the award would be given a HIRE Vets Medallion and a certificate.

The secretary would group the employers by those having 500 or more employees (large employers) and those having less than 500 employees (small employers). For large employers, the secretary would establish two levels of HIRE Vets Medallions, the gold and platinum level. To qualify for a gold award veterans must constitute at least seven percent of all employees hired in a calendar year, the firm must have an established employee veteran organization, and have established programs to enhance the leadership skills of veteran employees. To qualify for a platinum medallion veterans must constitute at least ten percent of all employees hired in a calendar year and the employer must retain 85 percent of veterans hired, have dedicated human resource professionals to support veterans, and the employer must have established a tuition assistance program to support veteran employees. For small and medium sized employers the secretary would establish similar awards.

This bill would establish a fund in the Treasury and authorize the secretary to assess a fee on employers who apply for the HIRE Vets Medallion. These funds would be used to carry out the program.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

This bill was introduced by Representative Cook on July 29, 2015 and referred to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. The committee held a mark-up on My 18, 2016, and the bill was reported out, as amended, by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor, Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8. No specific enumerating clause was included.

H.R. 5600 — No Hero Left Untreated Act, as amended (Rep. Knight, R-CA)

CONCT: [Rebekah Armstrong](#), 202-226-0678

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

November 29, 2016 under a suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 5600](#) would require the Department of Veterans Affairs to carry out a one-year pilot program to provide access to magnetic EEG/EKG-guided resonance therapy to veterans.

COST:

The [Congressional Budget Office](#) (CBO) estimates that implementing this bill would cost \$1 million over the 2017-2021 period; that spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

According to the findings in the bill, EEG/EKG-guided resonance therapy has successfully treated more than 400 veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), or other traumas. This bill would authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a one-year pilot program to provide access to magnetic EEG/EKG resonance therapy to treat larger populations of veterans suffering from PTSD. This pilot program would be limited to less than 50 veterans.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this bill.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

This bill was introduced by Representative Knight on June 28, 2016 and referred to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. The committee held a mark-up on September 21, 2016, and the bill was reported out, as amended, by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor, Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution. No specific enumerating clause was included.

H.R. 6323 — To name the Department of Veterans Affairs health care system in Long Beach, California, the "Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center" (Rep. Lowenthal, D-CA)

CONTACT: [Rebekah Armstrong](#), 202-226-0678

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on November 29, under suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 6323](#) would name the Department of Veterans Affairs health care system in Long Beach, California, the "Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center".

COST:

A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) cost estimate is not available at this time.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

There are no substantive concerns.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

[Tibor Rubin](#) was serving in the United States Army in Usan, North Korea, when his battalion was ambushed by Chinese soldiers. After 3 soldiers passed away manning the last American machine gun, Rubin took over, and fought until he was badly wounded and captured. He served as a prisoner of war for two and a half years. Rubin was awarded the Medal of Honor and received 2 Purple Hearts. Rubin had originally joined the U.S. Army to thank America for rescuing him from an Austrian concentration camp after over a year in captivity. He passed away at the age of 86 on December 8, 2015.

H.R. 6323 would name the Department of Veterans Affairs health care system in Long Beach, California, the "Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center".

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 6323 was introduced on June 28, 2016 and referred to the House Committee on Veteran's Affairs.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor, Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8. No specific enumerating clause was included.

H. Con. Res. 165 — Expressing the sense of Congress and reaffirming longstanding United States policy in support of a direct bilaterally negotiated settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and opposition to United Nations Security Council resolutions imposing a solution to the conflict (Rep. Royce, R-CA)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on November 29, 2016 under suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H. Con. Res. 165](#) would express a sense of Congress in support of a settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict negotiated directly by those parties, and opposition to United Nations Security Council resolutions imposing an outside solution to the conflict.

COST:

No Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is available.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H. Con. Res. 165 would express a sense of Congress that: (1) a durable and sustainable peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians will come only through direct bilateral negotiations between the parties; (2) any widespread international recognition of a unilateral declaration of Palestinian statehood outside of the context of a peace agreement with Israel would cause severe harm to the peace process, and would likely trigger the implementation of penalties under sections 7036 and 7041(j) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 ([Public Law 114-113](#)); (3) efforts by outside bodies, including the United Nations Security Council, to impose an agreement or parameters for an agreement are likely to set back the cause of peace; (4) the United States Government should continue to oppose and veto United Nations Security Council resolutions that seek to impose solutions to final status issues, or are one-sided and anti-Israel; and (5) the United States Government should continue to support and facilitate the resumption of negotiations without preconditions between Israelis and Palestinians toward a sustainable peace agreement.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H. Con. Res. 165 was introduced on September 28, 2016 and was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

No constitutional authority statement is available.

H. Con. Res. 40 — Encouraging reunions of divided Korean American families (Rep. Rangel, D-NY)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on November 29, 2016 under suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H. Con. Res. 40](#) would state that Congress encourages North Korea to allow Korean Americans to meet with their family members from North Korea; and calls on North Korea to take concrete steps to build goodwill that is conducive to peace on the Korean Peninsula.

COST:

No Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is available.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H. Con. Res. 40 would state that Congress encourages North Korea to allow Korean Americans to meet with their family members from North Korea; and calls on North Korea to take concrete steps to build goodwill that is conducive to peace on the Korean Peninsula. According to the findings of the resolution, “the division on the Korean Peninsula separated more than 10,000,000 Korean family members, including some who are now citizens of the United States.”

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H. Con. Res. 40 was introduced on April 21, 2015 and was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. On April 23, 2015, the resolution was ordered to be reported by unanimous consent.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

No constitutional authority statement is available.

NOTE: RSC Legislative Bulletins are for informational purposes only and should not be taken as statements of support or opposition from the Republican Study Committee.