

the Fiscal Year 2005 Budget Request for the Department of Homeland Security's Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate, the Office of Domestic Preparedness, and First Responder Funding. Testimony was heard from Michael D. Brown, Under Secretary, Emergency Preparedness and Response, Department of Homeland Security.

### HEALTH QUALITY INITIATIVES

*Committee on Ways and Means:* Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on Health Quality Initiatives. Testimony was heard from Carolyn Clancy, M.D., Director, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Department of Health and Human Services; Glenn M. Hackbarth, Chairman, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission; and public witnesses.

### SSA'S MANAGEMENT—TICKET TO WORK PROGRAM

*Committee on Ways and Means:* Subcommittee on Social Security held a hearing on the SSA's Management of the Ticket to Work Program. Testimony was heard from Martin H. Gerry, Deputy Commissioner, Disability and Income Security Programs, SSA; Troy R. Justesen, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services, Department of Education; and public witnesses.

### FASTER AND SMARTER FUNDING FOR FIRST RESPONDERS ACT

*Select Committee on Homeland Security:* Ordered reported, as amended, H.R. 3266, Faster and Smarter Funding for First Responders Act of 2003.

## Joint Meetings

### VETERANS PROGRAMS

*Joint Hearings:* Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs and the House Committee on Veterans Affairs concluded joint hearings to examine the legislative presentations of the Air Force Sergeants Association, Retired Enlisted Association, Gold Star Wives of America, and Fleet Reserve Association, after receiving testimony from CMSgt. Jim Lekovic, USAF (Ret.), Air Force Sergeants Association, Suitland, Maryland; Msgt. David L. Washington, USAF (Ret.), Retired Enlisted Association, Aurora, Colorado; Rachel Clinkscale, Gold Star Wives of America, Inc., Arlington, Virginia; and Joseph L. Barnes, Fleet Reserve Association, Alexandria, Virginia.

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### NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see, DAILY DIGEST, p. D177)

H.R. 3915, to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act

and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 through April 2, 2004. Signed on March 15, 2004. (Public Law 108-205)

S. 714, to provide for the conveyance of a small parcel of Bureau of Land Management land in Douglas County, Oregon, to the county to improve management of and recreational access to the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area. Signed on March 15, 2004. (Public Law 108-206)

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### COMMITTEE MEETING FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 2004

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

#### Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

#### House

No committee meetings are scheduled.

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### CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of March 22 through March 27, 2004

#### Senate Chamber

On *Monday*, at 2 p.m., Senate will resume consideration of S. 1637, Jumpstart Our Business Strength (JOBS) Act.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any other cleared legislative and executive business.

#### Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

*Committee on Appropriations:* March 23, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2005 for the Department of Energy's Office of National Nuclear Security Administration, 10 a.m., SD-192.

March 23, Subcommittee on Homeland Security, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2005 for the Transportation Security Administration and the United States Coast Guard, both of the Department of Homeland Security, 10 a.m., SD-124.

March 23, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary, to hold hearings to examine the transformation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, focusing on information technology, management and training, 10:30 a.m., SD-116.

March 24, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, to hold hearings to examine the Bureau of Reclamation's Animas-La Plata Project, 10 a.m., SD-124.

March 24, Subcommittee on Defense, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2005 for the Department of the Air Force, 10 a.m., SD-192.