

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S1915–S2032*

**Measures Introduced:** Nine bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2745–2753, S.J. Res. 29, and S. Res. 480. **Pages S1998–99**

#### Measures Reported:

Report to accompany S. 901, to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide additional authorizations of appropriations for the health centers program under section 330 of such Act. (S. Rept. No. 110–274)

S. 980, to amend the Controlled Substances Act to address online pharmacies, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S1998**

#### Measures Passed:

**Agricultural Programs Extension:** Senate passed S. 2745, to extend agricultural programs beyond March 15, 2008, to suspend permanent price support authorities beyond that date. **Pages S1916–17**

#### Measures Considered:

**Budget Resolution:** Senate continued consideration of S. Con. Res. 70, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2009 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2008 and 2010 through 2013, taking action on the following amendments proposed there to: **Pages S1916, S1917–92, S2029–32**

Pending:

Baucus Amendment No. 4160, to provide tax relief to middle-class families and small businesses, property tax relief to homeowners, relief to those whose homes were damaged or destroyed by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and tax relief to America's troops and veterans. **Page S1916**

Graham Amendment No. 4170, to protect families, family farms and small businesses by extending the income tax rate structure, raising the death tax exemption to \$5,000,000 and reducing the maximum death tax rate to no more than 35 percent; to keep education affordable by extending the college tuition deduction; and to protect senior citizens from higher taxes on their retirement income, maintain U.S. financial market competitiveness, and promote

economic growth by extending the lower tax rates on dividends and capital gains. **Page S1916**

Bingaman Amendment No. 4173, to provide additional funding resources in fiscal year 2009 for investments in innovation and education in order to improve the competitiveness of the United States. **Pages S1917–21**

Gregg (for Specter/Craig) Amendment No. 4189, to repeal section 13203 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 by restoring the Alternative Minimum Tax rates that had been in effect prior thereto. **Pages S1921–22**

Conrad Amendment No. 4190, to add a deficit-neutral reserve fund for repealing the 1993 rate increase for the alternative minimum tax for individuals. **Page S1922**

Kyl Amendment No. 4191, to protect small businesses, family ranches and farms from the Death Tax by providing a \$5 million exemption, a low rate for smaller estates and a maximum rate no higher than 35%. **Pages S1922–26**

Conrad (for Salazar) Modified Amendment No. 4196, to reform the estate tax to avoid subjecting thousands of families, family businesses, and family farms and ranches to the estate tax. **Pages S1922–32, S1940–46**

Bunning Amendment No. 4192, to repeal the tax increase on Social Security benefits imposed by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993. **Pages S1932–39**

Conrad Amendment No. 4204, to add a deficit-neutral reserve fund for repealing the 1993 increase in the income tax on Social Security benefits. **Page S1939**

Gregg (for Specter) Amendment No. 4203, to increase funding for the National Institutes of Health and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. **Page S1939**

Dorgan Amendment No. 4198, to increase the Indian Health Service by \$1,000,000,000 in fiscal year 2009. **Pages S1939–40**

Alexander Amendment No. 4207, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to improve energy efficiency and production. **Page S1940**

Kennedy Amendment No. 4151, to add a deficit-neutral reserve fund for increasing federal student

loan limits to protect students against disruptions in the private credit markets. **Page S1946–49**

Sununu Amendment No. 4221, to save lives, promote overall health care efficiency, and lower the cost for the delivery of health care services by facilitating the deployment and use of electronic prescribing technologies by physicians. **Pages S1949–50**

Murray (for Lincoln) Amendment No. 4194, to provide the Veterans Benefits Administration with additional resources to more effectively meet their increasing workload and to better address the unacceptably large claims backlog. **Pages S1950–53**

Alexander Amendment No. 4222, to take \$670,000 used by the EEOC in bringing actions against employers that require their employees to speak English, and instead use the money to teach English to adults through the Department of Education's English Literacy/Civics Education State Grant program. **Pages S1953–54**

Sessions Amendment No. 4231, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund for border security, immigration enforcement, and criminal alien removal programs. **Pages S1955–59**

Cornyn Amendment No. 4242, to protect the family budget by providing for a budget point of order against legislation that increases income taxes on taxpayers, including hard-working middle-income families, entrepreneurs, and college students. **Pages S1961–62**

Conrad (for Pryor) Amendment No. 4181, to add a deficit-neutral reserve fund for Science Parks. **Pages S1962–66**

Allard Amendment No. 4246, to raise taxes by an unprecedented \$1.4 trillion for the purpose of fully funding 111 new or expanded federal spending programs. **Pages S1966–72**

Menendez Amendment No. 4259, to establish a reserve fund for immigration reform and enforcement. **Pages S1976–80**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the resolution at approximately 10:15 a.m., on Thursday, March 13, 2008, following the moment of silence, and that all statutory time be yielded back except for 30 minutes to be equally divided and controlled between the Chair and Ranking Member of the Committee on Budget for their use when Senate resumes consideration of the resolution. **Pages S1981, S2029**

**Moment of Silence—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 10:15 a.m., on Thursday, March 13, 2008, there be a moment of silence to honor the 5 years of service and sacrifice of our troops and their families for the war in Iraq and also to remember those who are serving our nation in Afghanistan and throughout the world. **Page S2029**

Messages from the House: **Page S1998**

Measures Referred: **Page S1998**

Enrolled Bills Presented: **Page S1998**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S1999–S2000**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S2000–09**

Additional Statements: **Pages S1996–98**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S2009–28**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S2028**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S2028–29**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S2029**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 9:00 p.m., until 10:15 a.m. on Thursday, March 13, 2008. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2029.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### APPROPRIATIONS: AIR FORCE

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Defense concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for the Air Force, after receiving testimony from Michael W. Wynne, Secretary, and General T. Michael Moseley, Chief of Staff, both of the United States Air Force, Department of Defense.

### APPROPRIATIONS: FEDERAL JUDICIARY

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for the federal judiciary, after receiving testimony from Julia S. Gibbons, Judge, Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, and Chair, Committee on the Budget, Judicial Conference of the United States; and James C. Duff, Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts.

### CURRENT READINESS OF U.S. ARMED FORCES

*Committee on Armed Services:* Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support met to discuss the current readiness of the armed forces of the United States, receiving testimony from Lieutenant General James D. Thurman, USA, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7, Lieutenant General Richard F. Natonski, USMC, Deputy Commandant, Plans, Policies, and Operations, Vice Admiral Michael K. Loose, USN, Deputy Chief, Naval Operations Fleet Readiness and