

LaFollette and Representative John Nelson, both of Wisconsin—both championed legislation that authorized the Librarian of Congress to establish a legislative reference service composed of “competent persons to prepare such indexes, digests and compilations of law as may be required for Congress and other official use.” President Woodrow Wilson signed the legislation—the fiscal year 1915 appropriations bill for the Library of Congress—into law on July 16, 1914. Librarian of Congress Herbert Putnam established the Legislative Reference Service, LRS, in the Library of Congress by administrative order on July 18, 1914. The reference service’s location in the Library of Congress—the library both of Congress and the American people—provided researchers then and now with a treasure trove of books, materials, and collections of various sorts to answer and address the questions and inquiries that emanate from the legislative branch. The LRS was renamed the CRS in 1970.

Today, the responsibilities and roles of CRS have grown enormously. To meet the hundreds of thousands of requests made annually by Members and staff of the legislative branch, CRS employs over 600 total staff. Among the occupations represented at CRS are reference librarians, lawyers, political scientists, economists, budget analysts, scientists, engineers, and public administrators. The titles of its five interdisciplinary research divisions underscore the wide range of expertise housed in CRS: American Law; Domestic Social Policy; Foreign Affairs, Defense & Trade; Government & Finance; and Resources, Science & Industry. In addition, CRS has a Knowledge Services Group made up of research and information specialists who provide support services to CRS analysts and attorneys. In fiscal year 2013, Members and committees received information and analysis from CRS in more than 636,000 responses that took the form of 67,000 requests for custom analysis and research, 9,000 congressional participations in 350 seminars, and over half a million instances of Web site services.

At the heart of CRS’s charter is that it serves both the majority and minority parties and Members of Congress elected as Independents or with a third-party affiliation. This bedrock nonpartisan principle suffuses all of CRS’s endeavors, which makes it unlike the many partisan interest groups and “think tanks” that populate the Nation’s capital. CRS’s straightforward mission statement says it all: “The Congressional Research Service serves the Congress throughout the legislative process by providing comprehensive and reliable legislative research and analysis that are timely, objective, authoritative, and confidential, thereby contributing to an informed national legislature.”

Former Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan said: “People are entitled to their own opinions, but not their own

facts.” CRS provides the facts. Providing unbiased, objective facts is an invaluable service not just to Congress but to the Nation. In my considered judgment, CRS has served Congress exceptionally well during the past 100 years and I am confident that it will continue to perform at the highest level in the years and decades ahead. No one can fully predict the challenges we will face. But I am confident that the in-depth knowledge and expertise housed in CRS will enable Members of Congress and their staff to better understand and address an increasingly complex array of domestic and global issues. I congratulate CRS and its outstanding and dedicated staff on the occasion of its 100th birthday.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I was honored today to join my colleague, Senator CARDIN, in submitting a resolution to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Congressional Research Service, CRS. This is a historic milestone for CRS and I ask unanimous consent that a copy of a letter I recently wrote to Dr. James Billington, the Librarian of Congress, and Dr. Mary Mazanec, the Director of the Congressional Research Service, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

JULY 16, 2014.

Hon. JAMES H. BILLINGTON,
Librarian of Congress,
Dr. MARY B. MAZANEC,
Director of the Congressional Research Service.

DEAR DRs. BILLINGTON AND MAZANEC: On behalf of the Joint Committee on the Library and a grateful Congress, I’d like to congratulate you, the dedicated public servants of the Congressional Research Service (CRS), and the entire extended CRS family on this historic 100th Anniversary. You have a great deal to celebrate today at your “The First Branch: Challenges of Governance in a Global Era” symposium.

For a century now, CRS professionals have made enormous contributions to our public discourse and provided invaluable expertise to lawmakers challenged with developing legislation and policies to guide our nation in times of increasing complexity and rapid change.

We owe a profound debt of gratitude to all of you and to those legislators, led by Senator Robert M. La Follette and Representative John M. Nelson, who foresaw a need for your skills at the beginning of the 20th Century. As a New Yorker, I’m also proud that the legislation to create CRS was partly inspired by efforts in the Empire State undertaken by the New York State Library in addition to reforms carried out in Wisconsin, the home of Senator La Follette and Representative Nelson.

In 1914, no one could have envisioned the breadth of the challenges that would confront Congress over the following 100 years—issues of war and peace, profound social change and challenge, and revolutionary scientific and technological advancement. Yet through it all, CRS helped Congress make more informed decisions to the benefit of the American people and libraries all over the world.

We may have little idea today what Congress will be facing in the decades to come, but we know beyond any doubt that the Congressional Research Service will be there,

providing Congress with the very best information possible on legislative, policy, and oversight matters, every step of the way.

Congratulations on this historic milestone, and we’re looking forward to the next 100 years.

Sincerely,

CHARLES E. SCHUMER.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Committee on Rules and Administration with oversight of the Congressional Research Service, I offer my congratulations on the occasion of its centennial.

While it began in 1914 as a modest reference service, today it is an organization of nearly 600 analysts, attorneys, information professionals, and support staff with the core mission of providing timely and authoritative research and analysis on legislative issues of interest to Congress.

These highly trained and professional experts are dedicated to supporting the work of the Congress in an objective, unbiased, and nonpartisan manner.

Congratulations to the Congressional Research Service for 100 years of excellent service to the Congress.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 508) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2631

Mr. REID. Mr. President, S. 2631 is at the desk and due for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2631) to prevent the expansion of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program unlawfully created by Executive memorandum on August 15, 2012.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for a second reading but object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will receive a second reading on the next legislative day.

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that during the adjournment or recess of the Senate from Thursday, July 17, through Monday, July 21, Senators REED of Rhode Island and ROCKEFELLER be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.