

PRIVILEGED NOMINATION REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

On request by Senator BRIAN SCHATZ, under the authority of S. Res. 116, 112th Congress, the following nomination was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: David Brian Castillo, of Washington, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Labor.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. 1312. A bill to establish the Office of the Special Investigator for Competition Matters within the Department of Agriculture; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 1313. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to eliminate the use of official time by Federal employees; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. KING, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 1314. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that floor plan financing includes the financing of certain trailers and campers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. WELCH):

S. 1315. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a refundable credit for certain home accessibility improvements; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. COONS, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. PADILLA, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 1316. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide that COPS grant funds may be used for local law enforcement recruits to attend schools or academies if the recruits agree to serve in precincts of law enforcement agencies in their communities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BANKS (for himself, Mr. HAWLEY, and Mr. TUBERVILLE):

S. 1317. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require additional disclosures relating to gifts and contracts from foreign sources; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 1318. A bill to direct the American Battle Monuments Commission to establish a program to identify American-Jewish servicemembers buried in United States military cemeteries overseas under markers that incorrectly represent their religion and heritage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. HEINRICH, and Ms. WARREN):

S. Res. 158. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that paraprofessionals and education support staff should have fair compensation, benefits, and working conditions; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. THUNE, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BANKS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BUDD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GALLEGGO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. HUSTED, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KIM, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Mr. LUJAN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MOODY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MORENO, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHEEHY, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 159. A resolution honoring the life of the Honorable John Bennett Johnston, Jr., former Senator for the State of Louisiana; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CRUZ, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. Res. 160. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Safe Digging Month; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. Res. 161. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of April 7 through April 11, 2025, as "National Assistant Principals Week"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 161

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) were added as cosponsors of S. 161, a bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to issue rules relating to the testing procedures used under the New Car Assessment Program of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 339

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from New Mexico

(Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 339, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of multi-cancer early detection screening tests.

S. 463

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 463, a bill to facilitate the implementation of security measures undertaken by the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes.

S. 522

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) were added as cosponsors of S. 522, a bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to modify the frequency of board of directors meetings, and for other purposes.

S. 527

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 527, a bill to require the Federal Trade Commission to study the role of intermediaries in the pharmaceutical supply chain and provide Congress with appropriate policy recommendations, and for other purposes.

S. 739

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 739, a bill to amend title XXXIII of the Public Health Service Act with respect to flexibility and funding for the World Trade Center Health Program.

S. 749

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 749, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend increased dependency and indemnity compensation paid to surviving spouses of veterans who die from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, regardless of how long the veterans had such disease prior to death, and for other purposes.

S. 803

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 803, a bill to regulate large capacity ammunition feeding devices.

S. 844

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 844, a bill to accelerate workplace time-to-contract under the National Labor Relations Act.

S. 858

At the request of Mr. JUSTICE, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 858, a bill to authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work on the National Mall to honor the

extraordinary acts of valor, selfless service, and sacrifice displayed by Medal of Honor recipients.

S. 978

At the request of Mrs. MOODY, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCHE) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 978, a bill to amend the National Housing Act to establish a mortgage insurance program for first responders, and for other purposes.

S. 1206

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1206, a bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to prohibit the issuance of national injunctions, and for other purposes.

S. 1241

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1241, a bill to impose sanctions and other measures with respect to the Russian Federation if the Government of the Russian Federation refuses to negotiate a peace agreement with Ukraine, violates any such agreement, or initiates another military invasion of Ukraine, and for other purposes.

S. 1284

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1284, a bill to permanently extend the exemption from the engine compartment portion of the pre-trip vehicle inspection skills testing requirement for school bus drivers, and for other purposes.

S. 1296

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1296, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to strengthen disclosure requirements relating to foreign gifts and contracts, to prohibit contracts between institutions of higher education and certain foreign entities and countries of concern, and for other purposes.

S. 1297

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1297, a bill to provide counsel for unaccompanied children, and for other purposes.

S. 1308

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1308, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the criteria for approval of certain independent study programs for purposes of the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

S.J. RES. 46

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of

S.J. Res. 46, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "California State Motor Vehicle and Engine Pollution Control Standards; Heavy-Duty Vehicle and Engine Emission Warranty and Maintenance Provisions; Advanced Clean Trucks; Zero Emission Airport Shuttle; Zero-Emission Power Train Certification; Waiver of Preemption; Notice of Decision".

S. RES. 147

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 147, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that Congress should take all appropriate measures to ensure that the United States Postal Service remains an independent establishment of the Federal Government and is not subject to privatization.

S. RES. 153

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 153, a resolution designating March 27, 2025, as "National Women in Agriculture Day".

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 158—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT PARAPROFESSIONALS AND EDUCATION SUPPORT STAFF SHOULD HAVE FAIR COMPENSATION, BENEFITS, AND WORKING CONDITIONS

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. HEINRICH, and Ms. WARREN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 158

Whereas paraprofessionals (also sometimes known as "paraeducators") include education assistants and instructional assistants who work in elementary schools, secondary schools, or public institutions of higher education;

Whereas education support staff (also sometimes known as "classified school employees" or "education support professionals") include professionals who work in elementary schools, secondary schools, or public institutions of higher education in clerical and administrative services, transportation services, food and nutrition services, custodial and maintenance services, health and student services, technical services, and skilled trades;

Whereas more than 3,000,000 paraprofessionals and education support staff are the frontline workers who transform schools in the United States from brick and mortar buildings to places of learning and support for more than 49,000,000 students across the United States;

Whereas, since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, school staff employment has fallen across positions and there are still 331,000 fewer school staff than before the COVID-19

pandemic, leaving schools without the necessary staff in almost every position;

Whereas, since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, a shortage of teachers has resulted in some paraprofessionals and education support staff being expected to assume the duties of teachers without commensurate compensation or benefits;

Whereas many paraprofessionals and education support staff are undercompensated for their work, and do not receive a living wage, much less a competitive, family-sustaining living wage;

Whereas many paraprofessionals and education support staff are, as a matter of practice, laid off at the end of each school year and rehired annually, and lack job security;

Whereas, unlike most school employees, many paraprofessionals and education support staff are not full-time employees because their services, including those of bus drivers and food service workers, are time delimited;

Whereas many paraprofessionals and education support staff lack access to high-quality, affordable health care because they are intentionally hired for insufficient hours to receive health and retirement benefits, or otherwise are charged exorbitant employee premiums for health insurance;

Whereas, while paraprofessionals and education support staff are often the most diverse subset of school employees, are more likely to have grown up in the communities they serve, and are the trusted school community members for many students and parents, the voices of paraprofessionals and education support staff are not always valued in forming school policies;

Whereas paraprofessionals and education support staff often serve students facing systemic barriers, but are often excluded from professional growth and development opportunities;

Whereas, like many school employees, paraprofessionals and education support staff are too often subject to workplace violence and other safety hazards, including contaminants and extreme temperatures;

Whereas paraprofessionals and education support staff deserve real solutions that would empower them to—

- (1) work in a stable, safe environment;
- (2) have multi-year job security;
- (3) receive livable and competitive wages, access to sufficient hours, and fair compensation for their work; and
- (4) have a voice on the job and meaningful input in school policy;

Whereas respecting paraprofessionals and education support staff is essential to creating and maintaining safe and supportive school environments that are conducive to students learning and thriving; and

Whereas Congress seeks to recognize the rights, respect, and dignity that paraprofessionals and education support staff deserve as they continue to care for and educate the next generation: Now, therefore, be it:

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) paraprofessionals and education support staff—

(A) should be compensated at a rate that is a livable, competitive wage;

(B) should have access to high-quality, affordable healthcare and healthcare benefits at a de minimus personal cost;

(C) should be considered to be eligible employees under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.);

(D) should be entitled to 16 weeks of paid family and medical leave;

(E) should have paid leave for all planned and unforeseen school closures, including weather-related closures, professional development days, and other short-term closures;