

Director for Operations; and Stephen Burns, General Counsel.

HHS AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “HHS and the Catholic Church: Examining the Politicization of Grants (minority day of hearing).” Testimony was heard from Susie Baldwin, M.D., Chief, Health Assessment Unit, Office of Health Assessment and Epidemiology, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health; and public witnesses.

WATER QUALITY

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment held a hearing entitled “Integrated Planning and Permitting: An Opportunity for EPA to Provide Communities With Flexibility To Make Smart Investments in Water Quality.” Testimony was heard from Jim Suttle, Mayor, Omaha, Nebraska; Joe Reardon, Mayor, Kansas City, Kansas; Todd Portune, Commissioner, Hamilton County Board of Commissioners; Walt Baker, Director, Division of Water Quality, Utah Department of Environmental Quality; Carter H. Strickland, Jr., Commissioner, New York City Environmental Protection; Nancy Stoner, Acting Assistant Administrator for Water, Environmental Protection Agency; Cynthia Giles, Assistant Administrator for the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, Environmental Protection Agency; and public witnesses.

VA’S COMPENSATED WORK THERAPY PROGRAM

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Is It Working: Reviewing VA’s Compensated Work Therapy Program.” Testimony was heard from Anthony Campinell, Director, Therapeutic and Supported Employment Programs, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Trade held a hearing on the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Testimony was heard from Demetrios Marantis, Ambassador, Deputy U.S. Trade Representative, Office of the United States Trade Representative; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D1339)

H.R. 2192, to exempt for an additional 4-year period, from the application of the means-test presumption of abuse under chapter 7, qualifying members of reserve components of the Armed Forces and members of the National Guard who, after September 11, 2001, are called to active duty or to perform a homeland defense activity for not less than 90 days. Signed on December 13, 2011. (Public Law 112–64)

S. 1541, to revise the Federal charter for the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. to reflect a change in eligibility requirements for membership. Signed on December 13, 2011. (Public Law 112–65)

S. 1639, to amend title 36, United States Code, to authorize the American Legion under its Federal charter to provide guidance and leadership to the individual departments and posts of the American Legion. Signed on December 13, 2011. (Public Law 112–66)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2011

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Michael T. Scuse, of Delaware, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, and to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation, and Chester John Culver, of Iowa, and Bruce J. Sherrick, of Illinois, both to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation, Farm Credit Administration, 10:30 a.m., SR–328A.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard, to hold hearings to examine environmental risks of genetically engineered fish, 10:30 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Business meeting to consider S. 1108, to provide local communities with tools to make solar permitting more efficient, S. 1142, to promote the mapping and development of the United States geothermal resources by establishing a direct loan program for high risk geothermal exploration wells, to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to improve geothermal energy technology and demonstrate the use of geothermal energy in large scale thermal applications, S. 1149, to expand geothermal production, S. 1160, to improve the administration of the Department of Energy, and the nomination of Arunava Majumdar, of California, to be Under Secretary of Energy, 9:30 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: With the Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety, to hold