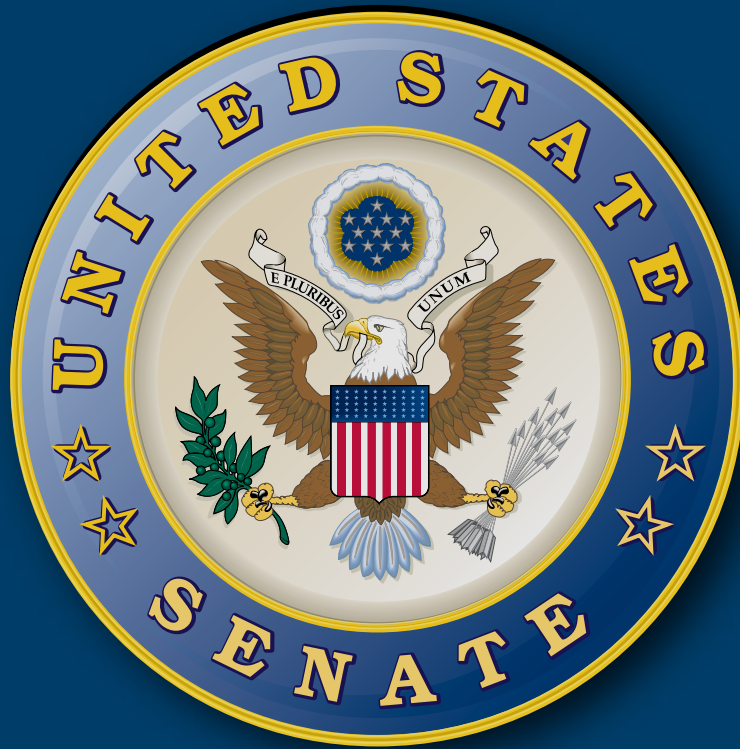


# SENATE HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE



## YEAR IN REVIEW: 2015

JANUARY, 2016



# A MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN RON JOHNSON:

*When I began as chairman of this committee, Ranking Member Tom Carper and I developed a mission statement to guide our work: “to enhance the economic and national security of America.” I am proud of the work we did to fulfill that mission in 2015.*

*To meet the significant security threats Americans face, our committee has focused on border security, cybersecurity, threats to our critical infrastructure, and countering Islamic terrorist and other violent extremist threats to our homeland. In total, the homeland security side of the committee approved 14 bills that focus on keeping Americans safe.*

*Our committee held 13 oversight hearings and three roundtables on the state of our borders, and the majority staff released a comprehensive report summarizing its disconcerting findings. The ranking member’s staff also released an important report on the root causes of the border crisis.*

*In the wake of the horrific attacks in Paris, France; San Bernardino, California; Chattanooga, Tennessee; and Garland, Texas, the committee has examined the security of the Syrian refugee program and the U.S. visa system. The committee conducted oversight of the administration’s efforts to counter the evolving threat of terrorist recruitment at home and abroad. I also led a successful effort in the Senate to ensure that key enhancements to the visa waiver program were included in the 2016 Omnibus Appropriations bill.*

*We worked to strengthen the security of Americans’ data and critical infrastructure, starting with the federal government’s own networks. Ranking Member Carper and I crafted legislation to ensure agencies implement stronger protections to defend against cyberattacks, as well as accelerate the deployment of a federal intrusion detection and prevention system. That language was included in the 2016 Omnibus Appropriations bill.*

*On the governmental affairs side of the committee, we focused on identifying and reducing government waste, fraud, and abuse. To this end, the committee approved over 40 bills, including legislation signed into law that will reduce improper payments paid by the government, end duplicative and wasteful federal programs, and help our nation’s veterans.*

*We also tackled the country's costly regulatory burden. The bipartisan bills passed by our committee would significantly change the way agencies make rules by increasing accountability and improving the quality of the regulatory process. They mandate better cost-benefit analysis and review of existing rules to ensure they are necessary and working as designed.*

*Rather than focus on the issues that divide us, we worked hard to identify and focus on areas of agreement. I am proud that we advanced legislation proposed by every member of the committee, both Democrat and Republican, and am grateful to my colleagues for working with me in such a bipartisan fashion to identify and pursue common-sense reforms.*

*In addition to legislation, our committee initiated dozens of investigations and oversight inquiries aimed at informing our legislative work, bringing transparency, accountability, and efficiency to the federal bureaucracy. We sent hundreds of letters seeking documents and information about some of the most pressing issues facing our nation—from domestic terrorism to financial security. Our three subcommittees have also performed their own investigations, examined the country's regulatory burden and our uncompetitive tax system, and conducted oversight of federal spending.*

*I am proud of the work that this committee started in 2015, but more must be done. In the year ahead, the committee will continue to pursue bipartisan solutions to our nation's most pressing problems. The committee will also continue to exercise its duties as the chief investigative committee of the United States Senate, pressing for answers in investigations of the terrorist attacks against our nation; the tragedies at the VA Medical Center in Tomah, Wisconsin; our nation's border security, aviation security, cybersecurity, and much more. We will keep fighting to arm federal watchdogs with the tools they need to root out waste, fraud, and abuse, and to protect brave federal whistleblowers who risk their livelihoods to improve our government.*

*I look forward to working with my colleagues to carry this work forward in 2016 as our committee strives to improve the economic and national security of all Americans.*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

**Ron Johnson,  
Chairman**



# Committee Activity in 2015

## BY THE NUMBERS

**71** bills approved by the Committee  
All 71 of them had bipartisan support  
64 of them were unanimous votes

**41** bills passed by the Senate

**30** bills signed into law

**50** full committee hearings

**14** subcommittee hearings

**7** legislative markups

**3** roundtable discussions



# At a Glance:

# 2015 LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

## Improving cybersecurity

- Enacted legislation requiring agencies to implement best practices and authorizing and improving a computer intrusion detection and prevention system for federal agencies.

## Enhancing border security

- Approved legislation that authorizes DHS to enter into preclearance negotiations with other countries and requires better reporting to Congress.
- Approved legislation that establishes metrics for DHS to use to measure border security.

## Regulatory reform

- Enacted legislation that improves the efficiency and coordination of federal permitting for major infrastructure construction projects.
- Approved four other bipartisan bills to reduce the regulatory burden on American consumers and businesses.

## Reducing waste, fraud, and abuse

- Approved legislation that strengthens federal watchdogs' independence, effectiveness, and access to documents.
- Enacted legislation that reduces federal improper payments.

## Giving Americans a fair chance to work

- Approved legislation that gives formerly incarcerated individuals a fair chance to compete for federal jobs by inquiring about criminal history later in the hiring process.

## Assisting veterans

- Enacted legislation that helps connect veterans with job vacancies at Customs and Border Protection.
- Approved legislation that provides additional protections for whistleblowers, strengthens penalties for retaliation, and protects veterans' medical files.

# All Legislation passed by the Committee in 2015

## Protecting the Homeland From Threats

### **S. 1869, Federal Cybersecurity Enhancement Act - LAW**

*Sponsors: Tom Carper (D-DE), Ron Johnson (R-WI)*

**Requires agencies to implement best practices in cybersecurity and authorizes and improves a computer network intrusion detection and prevention system for federal agencies and the data they hold on Americans. The bill was included the Cybersecurity Act of 2015, a joint effort of the Senate and House Intelligence and Homeland Security committees, that passed in the omnibus.**

### **H.R. 998, Preclearance Authorization Act of 2015 - HSGAC**

**With a substitute amendment authored by Chairman Johnson, the modified bill authorizes DHS to enter into preclearance negotiations with other countries and requires DHS to consult with Congress throughout the process.**

### **S. 1864, DHS Border Security Metrics - HSGAC**

*Sponsors: Ron Johnson (R-WI), John Cornyn (R-TX), John McCain (R-AZ)*

**Establishes metrics DHS should use to measure border security and requires an independent review.**

### **S. 1846, Critical Infrastructure Protection Act - HSGAC**

*Sponsors: Ron Johnson (R-WI), Ted Cruz (R-TX)*

**Requires DHS to prepare a strategy to protect the nation's critical infrastructure against geomagnetic disturbances and electromagnetic pulse threats.**

### **H.R. 460, Human Trafficking Detection Act of 2015 - LAW**

**Passed as part of S. 178, a larger human trafficking bill, this codifies DHS's Human Trafficking Awareness program and requires a yearly report on its effectiveness.**

### **S. 1873, Border Security Technology Accountability Act of 2015 - HSGAC**

*Sponsors: John McCain (R-AZ)*

**Requires that border security technology acquisition programs have their cost, schedule, and performance baseline approved by the relevant authority.**

### **S. 750, Arizona Borderlands Protection and Preservation Act - HSGAC**

*Sponsors: John McCain (R-AZ), Jeff Flake (R-AZ)*

**Provides Border Patrol agents with immediate access to federal lands for security activities in the Tucson and Yuma sectors.**

### **S. 1808, Northern Border Security Review Act - HSGAC**

*Sponsors: Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND), Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), Gary Peters (D-MI), Ron Johnson (R-WI), Rob Portman (R-OH), Susan Collins (R-ME)*

**Calls on DHS to submit a northern border threat analysis.**

#### **KEY:**

**LAW** - Signed into law

**SENATE** - Passed by Senate

**HSGAC** - Approved by Committee

# Improving Our Response To National Emergencies

## **H.R. 615, DHS Interoperable Communications Act - LAW**

**With a substitute amendment authored by Chairman Johnson and Ranking Member Carper, the bill tasks the DHS Under Secretary for Management with achieving and maintaining interoperable communications among the components of DHS.**

## **S. 1090, Emergency Information Improvement Act of 2015 – LAW**

*Sponsors: Cory Booker (D-NJ), Ted Cruz (R-TX), John Boozman (R-AR), Cory Gardner (R-CO), Robert Menendez (D-NJ), Pat Roberts (R-KS)*

**Ensures broadcast facilities are an eligible provider of critical services to receive grants from FEMA for disaster damages.**

## **H.R. 623, Social Media Working Group Act of 2015 - LAW**

**Codifies an existing working group that provides guidance on using social media to communicate with the public in emergencies.**

## **S. 1180, Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Modernization Act of 2015 – SENATE**

*Sponsors: Ron Johnson (R-WI), Claire McCaskill (D-MO)*

**Authorizes DHS “next generation” system that allows enhanced alerts to be disseminated over multiple communications platforms and enables instantaneous message delivery over multiple media.**

## **S. 546, RESPONSE Act of 2015 - HSGAC**

*Sponsors: Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND), Angus King (I-ME), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Charles Schumer (D-NY), Cory Booker (D-NJ), Claire McCaskill (D-MO), Robert Casey (D-PA), Joni Ernst (R-IA)*

**Establishes a FEMA subcommittee to develop recommendations on emergency response issues involving the transportation of hazardous materials by rail.**

## **S. 1915, First Responder Anthrax Preparedness Act – HSGAC**

*Sponsors: Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), Cory Booker (D-NJ), Christopher Coons (D-DE), Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), John Hoeven (R-ND), Roger Wicker (R-MS), Mike Rounds (R-SD), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Thad Cochran (R-MS), Shelley Capito (R-WV), Gary Peters (D-MI), Robert Casey (D-PA), Benjamin Cardin (D-MD), Cory Gardner (R-CO), John Barrasso (R-WY)*

**Authorizes DHS to carry out a 3-year pilot program to distribute nearly expired anthrax vaccines to emergency responders deemed to be at high risk of exposure to anthrax.**



# Reducing The Regulatory Burden On Americans

## **S. 280, Federal Permitting Improvement Act of 2015 - LAW**

*Sponsors: Rob Portman (R-OH), Claire McCaskill (D-MO), Roy Blunt (R-MO), Ron Johnson (R-WI), Angus King (I-ME), Joe Manchin (D-WV), Rand Paul (R-KY), Joe Donnelly (D-IN), Susan Collins (R-ME), Dan Sullivan (R-AK), Mark Warner (D-VA), Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND), Orrin Hatch (R-UT)*

**Passed as part of the highway bill, this improves efficiency and coordination surrounding the federal permitting of major infrastructure construction projects.**

## **S. 1607, Independent Agency Regulatory Analysis - HSGAC**

*Sponsors: Rob Portman (R-OH), Susan Collins (R-ME), Joni Ernst (R-IA), James Lankford (R-OK), Mark Warner (D-VA)*

**Gives the President the authority to require independent agencies to comply with certain regulatory analysis requirements and submit that analysis to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs for review.**

## **S. 1818, Principled Rulemaking Act of 2015 – HSGAC**

*Sponsors: James Lankford (R-OK), Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND), Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), Joni Ernst (R-IA)*

**Codifies principles of good governance in rulemaking, including looking for least-cost alternatives and consideration of non-regulatory approaches.**

## **S. 1820, Early Participation in Regulations Act of 2015 – HSGAC**

*Sponsors: James Lankford (R-OK), Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND), Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), Joni Ernst (R-IA)*

**For major rules, requires agencies to issue an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.**

## **S. 1817, Smarter Regs Act of 2015 - HSGAC**

*Sponsors: Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND), James Lankford (R-OK), Mark Warner (D-VA), Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), Joni Ernst (R-IA)*

**For major rules, requires agencies to publicly build in a “lookback” process to enhance retrospective review.**



# Reducing Waste, Fraud, and Abuse In The Federal Government

## **S. 579, Inspector General Empowerment Act of 2015 - HSGAC**

*Sponsors: Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Claire McCaskill (D-MO), Ron Johnson (R-WI), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Joni Ernst (R-IA), John Cornyn (R-TX), Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), Susan Collins (R-ME), Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), Tom Carper (D-DE), James Lankford (R-OK), Mark Kirk (R-IL), Deb Fischer (R-NE), Ron Wyden (D-OR)*

**The bill strengthens federal watchdogs' independence and access to documents and gives them tools they need to conduct audits and investigations.**

## **S. 2375, Federal Asset Sale and Transfer Act of 2015 – HSGAC**

*Sponsors: Ron Johnson (R-WI), Mark Warner (D-VA), Roy Blunt (R-MO), Rob Portman (R-OH), James Lankford (R-OK)*

**Creates an independent board to identify unutilized, underutilized, excess, and surplus federal properties to reduce the federal real property inventory.**

## **S. 614, Federal Improper Payments Coordination Act of 2015 – LAW**

*Sponsors: Tom Carper (D-DE), Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), Ron Johnson (R-WI)*

**Corrects previous improper payments bills to make them more effective, including allowing greater access to the Do Not Pay Initiative.**

## **S. 1620/H.R. 1626, DHS IT Duplication Reduction Act of 2015 – LAW**

*Senate Sponsor: Ron Johnson (R-WI)*

**Requires DHS Chief Information Officer to give Congress a report on duplicative information systems at DHS and a strategy for reducing them.**

## **S. 1115, GONE Act - SENATE**

*Sponsors: Deb Fischer (R-NE), Joe Manchin (D-WV), Ron Johnson (R-WI)*

**Addresses the thousands of active accounts for grants that are empty and costing the government almost a million dollars in fees each year to maintain.**

## **S. 1616, Saving Federal Dollars Through Better Use of Government Purchase and Travel Cards Act of 2015 – SENATE**

*Sponsors: Thomas Carper (D-DE), Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Claire McCaskill (D-MO), Ron Johnson (R-WI)*

**Requires the GSA to use data analysis to scrutinize the \$16 billion in payments federal workers make each year with government purchase cards.**

## **S. 1576, Representative Payee Fraud Prevention Act of 2015 – SENATE**

*Sponsors: James Lankford (R-OK), Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND), Ron Johnson (R-WI)*

**Criminalizes a representative payee using OPM retirement funds for any other purpose than for the benefit of the person in their care.**

## **S. 310, EGO Act – HSGAC**

*Sponsors: Bill Cassidy (R-LA), Deb Fischer (R-NE), Pat Roberts (R-KS), Steve Daines (R-MT), Ron Johnson (R-WI)*

**Bans the use of federal funds for official portraits.**

## **S. 742, Stop Wasteful Federal Bonuses Act of 2015 - HSGAC**

*Sponsors: Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), Deb Fischer (R-NE), Claire McCaskill (D-MO)*

**Prohibits agency managers from giving bonuses to an employee for 5 years if the employee engaged in certain wrongdoing.**

**S. 1868/H.R. 3116, Quarterly Financial Reporting Reauthorization Act of 2015 - LAW**

*Senate Sponsor: Tom Carper (D-DE)*

**Re-authorizes the Census Bureau Quarterly Financial Reporting Program, which collects financial statistics of business operations and is used for GDP estimates.**

**S. 565, Federal Vehicle Repair Cost Savings Act - LAW**

*Sponsors: Gary Peters (D-MI), James Lankford (R-OK), Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)*

**Encourages the use of remanufactured vehicle components in federal vehicles, when doing so is more cost effective.**

**S. 1638, DHS Headquarters Consolidation Accountability Act – HSGAC**

*Sponsors: Ron Johnson (R-WI), Tom Carper (D-DE)*

**Requires report to Congress on DHS's headquarters consolidation project.**

**S. 1073, Stopping Improper Payments to Deceased People Act – HSGAC**

*Sponsors: Tom Carper (D-DE), Ron Johnson (R-WI), Mark Warner (D-VA), Daniel Coats (R-IN), Cory Booker (D-NJ), Claire McCaskill (D-MO), Thom Tillis (R-NC), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)*

**Expands access to the full Death Master File maintained by the Social Security Administration to prevent improper payments.**

**S. 2109, Directing Dollars to Disaster Relief Act of 2015 - HSGAC**

*Sponsors: Ron Johnson (R-WI), Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), James Lankford (R-OK)*

**Instructs FEMA to develop and implement a plan to control and reduce administrative costs for major disasters.**

**S. 2128, Inspector General Mandates Reporting Act of 2015- HSGAC**

*Sponsors: Ben Sasse (R-NE), Claire McCaskill (D-MO)*

**Requires that inspectors general provide a list of each reporting requirement the office is mandated to respond to with recommendations on what should be reduced.**

**S. 2133, Fraud Reduction and Data Analytics Act of 2015 - HSGAC**

*Sponsors: Tom Carper (D-DE), Thom Tillis (R-NC), Claire McCaskill (D-MO), Ron Johnson (R-WI), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Kelly Ayotte (R-NH)*

**Strengthens anti-fraud financial controls, following framework designed to identify and assess fraud risks.**

**S. 1492, to direct the Administrator of General Services, on behalf of the Archivist of the US, to convey certain Federal property located in the State of Alaska to the municipality of Anchorage, Alaska – HSGAC**

*Sponsor: Dan Sullivan (R-AK)*

**Authorizes the GSA on behalf of the National Archives to convey a property located in Anchorage, Alaska, to the city of Anchorage. Proceeds of the sale would be used for deficit reduction.**

# Giving Americans A Fair Chance To Work

## **S. 1629, District of Columbia Courts - SENATE**

*Sponsors: Ron Johnson (R-WI), Tom Carper (D-DE)*

**Allows the District of Columbia to provide programmatic incentives to former offenders who are succeeding in reentry, along with other court reforms.**

## **S. 2021, Fair Chance Act – HSGAC**

*Sponsors: Cory Booker (D-NJ), Ron Johnson (R-WI), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Joni Ernst (R-IA), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Gray Peters (D-MI), Rob Portman (R-OH), Patty Murray (D-PA), Tim Kaine (D-VA), Al Franken (D-MN), Ron Wyden (D-OR) Christopher Murphy (D-CT)*

**Gives formerly incarcerated individuals a chance to compete for employment in the federal government by moving the criminal history inquiry closer to the end of the hiring process.**

## Honoring and Assisting Veterans

## **S. 2127, Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick Whistleblower Protection Act of 2015 – HSGAC**

*Sponsors: Ron Johnson (R-WI), Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), Mark Kirk (R-IL), Joni Ernst (R-IA)*

**Provides additional protections for whistleblowers, strengthens penalties for retaliating against them, and protects veterans' medical files.**

## **S. 1603/H.R. 2835, Border Jobs for Veterans Act - LAW**

*Senate Sponsors: Jeff Flake (R-AZ), Ron Johnson (R-WI), John McCain (R-AZ), Charles Schumer (D-NY), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Thom Tillis (R-NC), David Vitter (R-LA), Dan Sullivan (R-AK), Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), James Lankford (R-OK), Pat Toomey (R-PA), Richard Burr (R-NC), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), James Inhofe (R-OK)*

**Requires DHS and the Defense Department to work together to identify and consider hiring separating service members as Customs and Border Protection officers.**

## **S. 242/H.R. 313, Wounded Warriors Federal Leave Act of 2015 - LAW**

*Senate sponsors: Jon Tester (D-MT), Jerry Moran (R-KS), Pat Toomey (R-PA)*

**Provides advanced additional sick leave to veterans for a service-related disability during their first year working for the federal government.**

## **S. 136, Gold Star Fathers Act of 2015 – LAW**

*Sponsors: Ron Wyden (D-OR), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Susan Collins (R-ME)*

**Expands federal hiring preference for the mothers of permanently disabled and deceased members of the military to include fathers.**

## **S. 1826, naming a U.S. post office in Wisconsin in honor of Lieutenant Colonel Megellas, who fought heroically in the Battle of the Bulge and others – SENATE**

*Sponsors: Ron Johnson (R-WI), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), John Cornyn (R-TX)*

## **S. 994, naming a U.S. post office in New Jersey in honor of Staff Sgt. Joseph D'Augustine, killed in action in Afghanistan – LAW**

*Sponsors: Cory Booker (D-NJ), Robert Menendez (D-NJ)*



**S. 1596, naming a U.S. post office in Ohio in honor of Specialist Riley, killed in action in Afghanistan - SENATE**  
*Sponsors: Rob Portman (R-OH), Sherrod Brown (D-OH)*

**H.R. 3059, naming a U.S. post office in Oklahoma in honor of James Robert Kalsu, an All-American tackle killed in action in Vietnam - LAW**

**H.R. 728, naming a U.S. post office in Missouri in honor of Sergeant First Class Woods, killed from a wound sustained in action in Afghanistan – LAW**

**H.R. 1326, naming a U.S. post office in Florida in honor of Sergeant First Class Ferguson, killed in the shooting at Ft. Hood after serving multiple tours in the Army – LAW**

**H.R. 322, naming a U.S. post office in Missouri in honor of Sergeant Zachary Fischer, killed in action in Afghanistan – LAW**

**H.R. 323, naming a U.S. post office in Missouri in honor of Sergeant Amanda Pinson, the first female soldier from Missouri to be killed in action in Iraq – LAW**

**H.R. 324, naming a U.S. post office in Missouri in honor of Lt. Daniel Riordan, killed in action serving in the Army -LAW**

**H.R. 1442, naming a U.S. post office in New York in honor of Staff Sgt. Robert Dietz, killed in action during World War II - LAW**





# Improving The Function and Transparency of Federal Agencies

## **S. 1172, the Edward “Ted” Kaufman and Michael Leavitt Presidential Transitions Improvements Act of 2015 – SENATE**

*Sponsors: Tom Carper (D-DE), Ron Johnson (R-WI)*

**Modifies the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 to better coordinate services to ensure a smooth presidential transition.**

## **H.R. 1531, Land Management Workforce Flexibility Act - LAW**

**Allows temporary seasonal land management employees to compete for permanent seasonal jobs under merit systems procedures.**

## **S. 2093, DOT to appoint Federal Directors to WMATA Board - LAW**

*Sponsors: Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), Benjamin Cardin (D-MD), Tim Kaine (D-VA), Mark Warner (D-VA)*

**Passed as part of the highway bill, this gives the Department of Transportation the authority to appoint the federal directors to the Board of Directors of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.**

## **S. 1109, Truth in Settlements Act of 2015 - SENATE**

*Sponsors: Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), James Lankford (R-OK), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)*

**Mandates government-wide standards for federal agencies to disclose information to the public about settlement agreements.**

## **S. 1580, Competitive Service Act - SENATE**

*Sponsors: Jon Tester (D-MT), Rob Portman (R-OH), Benjamin Cardin (D-MD), Jerry Moran (R-KS), Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND), Michael Enzi (R-WY), Ron Johnson (R-WI)*

**Allows federal agencies to review and select job candidates from another agency’s “best qualified” list.**

## **S. 1550, Program Management Improvement Accountability Act - SENATE**

*Sponsors: Joni Ernst (R-IA), Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND), Robert Casey (D-PA)*

**Addresses gaps in program and project management job series in the federal government.**

## **S. 282, Taxpayer Right-to-Know Act – HSGAC**

*Sponsors: James Lankford (R-OK), Claire McCaskill (D-MO), Ron Johnson (R-WI), Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND), Michael Enzi (R-WY), John McCain (R-AZ), Rob Portman (R-OH), Gary Peters (D-MI), Rand Paul (R-KY)*

**Creates federal program inventory that links additional available financial data and performance metrics for every federal program in a single location.**

## **S. 558, Presidential Library Donations Reform Act of 2015 – HSGAC**

*Sponsors: Tom Carper (D-DE), Ron Johnson (R-WI), Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), Cory Booker (D-NJ)*

**Requires transparency for donations to Presidential Libraries while the President is still in office.**

## **S. 434, Security Clearance Accountability, Reform, and Enhancement Act of 2015 - HSGAC**

*Sponsors: Jon Tester (D-MT), Claire McCaskill (D-MO), David Vitter (R-LA), Rob Portman (R-OH)*

**Strengthens the accountability of individuals involved in misconduct affecting the integrity of background investigations and prevents contractor conflicts of interest.**

**S. 991/H.R. 1831, Evidence-Based Policymaking Commission Act – HSGAC**

*Senate Sponsors: Patty Murray (D-WA), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)*

**Establishes a commission to study the use of evidence-based policymaking to improve federal policymaking.**

**S. 779, Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act of 2015 – HSGAC**

*Sponsors: John Cornyn (R-TX), Ron Wyden (D-OR), Edward Markey (D-MA), Brian Schatz (D-HI), Ron Johnson (R-WI), Christopher Murphy (D-CT)*

**Requires certain agencies to make manuscripts of journal articles stemming from research funded by taxpayers available within 12 months after publication.**

**H.R. 1557, Federal Employee Antidiscrimination Act of 2015 – HSGAC**

**As amended, the bill requires increased agency reporting on discrimination and retaliation and requires discipline for supervisors who discriminate or retaliate.**

**S. 1170, Breast Cancer Research Semipostal – LAW**

*Sponsors: Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Sen Ayotte, Kelly (R-NH), Tammy (D-WI), John Barrasso (R-WY), Roy Blunt (R-MO), Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Robert Casey (D-PA), Thad Cochran (R-MS), Christopher Coons (D-DE), Richard Durbin (D-IL), Michael Enzi (R-WY), Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Orrin Hatch (R-UT), Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND), Mazie Hirono (D-HI), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Robert Menendez (D-NJ), Harry Reid (D-NV), Brian Schatz (D-HI), Charles Schumer (D-NY), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Debbie (D-MI), Jon Tester (D-MT), Pat Toomey (R-PA)*

**Reauthorizes the Breast Cancer Research Stamp through 2019.**

## Honoring Other American Heroes

**S. 179, naming a U.S. post office in Minnesota in honor of James Oberstar, a former member of the U.S. House of Representatives - LAW**

*Sponsors: Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Al Franken (D-MN)*

**H.R. 1884, naming a U.S. post office in New York in honor of Officer Daryl Pierson, a police officer killed in the line of duty - LAW**

**H.R. 651, naming a U.S. post office in Rhode Island in honor of Sister Ann Keefe, who dedicated her career to improving her community - LAW**

**H.R. 891, naming a U.S. post office in Texas in honor of the veterans of Floresville, Texas - LAW**

**H.R. 1350, naming a U.S. post office in New York in honor of Herman Badillo, the first Puerto-Rican born congressman - LAW**

**H.R. 558, naming a U.S. post office in Ohio in honor of Richard Chenault, who served his community as a mail carrier, fire fighter, and police officer - LAW**

**KEY:**

**LAW** - Signed into law

**SENATE** - Passed by Senate

**HSGAC** - Approved by Committee

# Committee Investigative and Oversight Activities

## **The State of America's border security**

**This Congress, the committee has made border security a top priority, holding 13 hearings and three roundtables related to the subject and conducting site visits along the southwest border, northern border, and Central America.**

**In November, Chairman Johnson released a 100-page report providing a summary of the majority staff's findings from the committee's border security hearings, as well as a primer on key border security issues and recommendations for small reforms that could move the country closer to a secure border. The report yields an inescapable conclusion: America's borders are not secure. The committee's work is well underway in tackling many of these reforms, already clearing six bills related to border security through the committee and one bill through the Senate, which was recently signed into law.**

## **Cybersecurity and data breaches at federal agencies**

**The committee investigated data breaches at the Office of Personnel Management and Internal Revenue Service in 2015 through a series of two hearings, revealing grossly inadequate practices in securing those agencies' data on Americans. Continued oversight has forced agencies to overhaul the security on their computer networks and employ best practices in cybersecurity — the same practices already in place at many private companies.**

**As the first hearing of the 114th Congress and in a series of letters sent by Chairman Johnson to the general counsel of major U.S. companies, the committee also conducted oversight to facilitate information sharing legislation ultimately included in S. 754 and passed as part of the omnibus.**

## **Tragedies at the VA Medical Center in Tomah, Wisconsin**

**The committee is investigating allegations of overprescription of opioids, quality of care deficiencies, abuse of authority, whistleblower retaliation, and veterans' deaths at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center in Tomah, Wisconsin. The committee is also investigating the VA Office of Inspector General's review of the facility. Tragically, a 35-year-old Marine veteran, Jason Simcakoski, and a 74-year-old Army veteran, Thomas Baer, died after poor treatment at the facility.**

**The committee is gathering documents and conducting witness interviews as part of a broad investigation into the tragedies at the Tomah VA. Chairman Johnson issued a subpoena to the VA Inspector General in April 2015 to obtain documents. In June 2015, the committee majority staff released an interim report showing that the problems at the Tomah VA had been known—and had gone unaddressed—for nearly a decade. Chairman Johnson will continue to get to the bottom of how the Tomah VA Medical Center failed Wisconsin's heroes.**

## **Terrorism inside the United States**

The committee has a solemn obligation to enhance the national security of the United States. With 2015 witnessing several acts of domestic terrorism, the committee has examined potential national security vulnerabilities exposed by those attacks.

Chairman Johnson has initiated inquiries into the visa processes used by the San Bernardino terrorists, and the weapons employed by the Garland, Texas, shooters. The committee is also examining the use of encryption and social media by terrorists to carry out their deadly goals. Chairman Johnson has pressed the administration to explain why it prohibited immigration officers from reviewing a visa applicant's social media history.

## **Personal email use in the State Department**

Along with Senator Charles Grassley, Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Chairman Johnson is examining the national security and federal records implications of former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's use of a personal email account and server for official business. According to public information, more than a thousand emails on her personal server are now deemed classified.

Chairman Johnson has requested information from the State Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, other federal agencies, and the private firms hired to provide IT services on Secretary Clinton's server. Because of the potentially serious consequences for national security, this inquiry is ongoing.

## **Gyrocopter landing on the Capitol lawn**

The committee conducted a bipartisan investigation into the landing of a gyrocopter on the Capitol lawn. On April 15, 2015, at about 1:23 p.m., a retired U.S. Postal Service employee landed his aircraft just feet from the Capitol building after flying through the country's most heavily restricted airspace. The landing highlighted potential vulnerabilities in airspace security around the nation's capital.

In August 2015, Chairman Johnson and Ranking Member Carper released a joint staff report presenting information gathered from the U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Capitol Police, the Federal Aviation Administration, and the U.S. Park Police. The committee staff report found deficiencies in the Secret Service's and the Capitol Police's investigative actions of the pilot prior to the flight, as well as a lack of clear responsibility among the agencies for investigating potential future incursions into the restricted airspace. The report also included recommendations for the agencies to improve their coordination and communication going forward.

## **Regulations and the regulatory process**

The committee is examining regulations issued by the administration that threaten America's economic security. One such regulation, issued by the Labor Department, could restrict the retirement advice available to American consumers, especially elderly or low-income savers. Another regulation, issued by the Environmental Protection Agency, would impose a burdensome and costly permitting scheme on ordinary landowners. Chairman Johnson is collecting information from these agencies, and the Office of Management and Budget, about the promulgation of these regulations.

The committee also did extensive bipartisan outreach and oversight to better understand the regulatory process. In the spring, the full committee, along with the Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management, solicited and received more than 50 responses from stakeholder groups, including organizations representing industry, labor unions, and environmental advocates, to better determine how the regulatory process affects their businesses. The members are using these responses and the information gained from multiple committee and subcommittee hearings held this year to inform legislation.

## **How the administration uses taxpayer dollars and settlement funds**

With the federal government spending over \$3 trillion each year, Americans have a right to know that their tax dollars are being well spent. In addition, the administration has received billions of dollars from settlements with private companies. The committee has conducted oversight of the administration's use of these funds to help ensure that all federal monies are put to good use.

Chairman Johnson inquired about how the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services are recouping taxpayer dollars spent on failed Obamacare state exchanges. The committee has also received information about how the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Housing and Urban Development have utilized funding for Hurricane Sandy rebuilding. Chairman Johnson has received information about the use of funds obtained in the Justice Department's national housing settlements, and he has requested information about the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's use of funds received in settlements with automobile lenders.

## **Empowering federal watchdogs and whistleblowers**

Americans deserve a government that works efficiently for them. The committee has worked to empower federal inspectors general and to protect federal employees who blow the whistle on waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement. Often times, to protect their institutional interests, agencies have restricted inspectors general's access to information needed to do their jobs. Chairman Johnson has pressed agencies to provide information to their inspectors general, and has passed legislation out of the committee to improve access.

In addition, the committee convened two hearings to provide federal whistleblowers a platform to tell their stories of retaliation after disclosing waste. One hearing focused exclusively on VA employees who were targeted and harassed by their agency, and the inspector general, for blowing the whistle. To encourage future employees to come forward, Chairman Johnson created a special email account—[whistleblower@ronjohnson.senate.gov](mailto:whistleblower@ronjohnson.senate.gov)—to hear about waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement in the executive branch.

## **Assessing the Federal Air Marshal Service 15 Years after 9/11**

The committee launched a bipartisan inquiry into the Federal Air Marshal Service (FAMS) following media reports of potential misconduct and waste. Independent experts raised additional questions about whether FAMS is properly updating its operations to meet evolving threats, and at least one trade group has raised concerns regarding how FAMS manages the job-related health and wellness concerns of its air marshals.

To assess these potential problems, the committee held briefings with agency officials, independent experts, and industry representatives. The committee also requested documents detailing FAMS policies and procedures, spoke with current and former Air Marshals, and conducted independent research. The committee continues to work with FAMS and others to identify opportunities for improvement within this important agency.