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New & Notable Sources of Government Information

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<p>Congress.gov</p> 	
Most Viewed Bills on Congress.gov	
<p>H.R. 582 (116th Congress) Raise the Wage Act <i>(Introduced on January 16, 2019)</i> https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/582/text</p>	<p>Provides for increases in the Federal minimum wage over a period of seven years, ending in \$15.00 an hour 6 years after the effective date.</p>
<p>H.R. 496 (116th Congress) Affirming that all Americans have the right to participate in boycotts in pursuit of civil and human rights at home and abroad, as protected by the First Amendment of the Constitution <i>(Introduced on July 16, 2019)</i> https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-resolution/496/text</p>	<p>Some examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Attempting to slow Japanese aggression in the Pacific by boycotting Imperial Japan in 1937 and 1938; (2) Boycotting Nazi Germany from March 1933 to October 1941 in response to the dehumanization of the Jewish people in the lead-up to the Holocaust; (3) The United States Olympic Committee boycotting the 1980 summer Olympics in Moscow in protest of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in the preceding year; and (4) Leading the campaign in the 1980s to boycott South African goods in opposition to apartheid in that country.
<p>H.R. 748 (116th Congress) Middle Class Health Benefits Tax Repeal Act of 2019 <i>(Introduced on January 24, 2019)</i> https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/748/text</p>	<p>This bill repeals the excise tax on employer-sponsored health care coverage for which there is an excess benefit (high-cost plans). The repeal applies to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2019. (Under current law, the tax is scheduled to take effect in 2022.)</p>
<p>H.R. 5 (116th Congress) Equality Act <i>(Introduced on March 13, 2019)</i> https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/5/text</p>	<p>This bill prohibits discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity in a wide variety of areas including public accommodations and facilities, education, federal funding, employment, housing, credit, and the jury system. Specifically, the bill defines and includes sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity among the prohibited categories of discrimination or segregation.</p>
<p>H.R. 3375 (116th Congress) Stopping Bad Robocalls Act <i>(Introduced on June 20, 2019)</i> https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/3375/text</p>	<p>Legislation intended to eliminate/curb unwanted robocalls to phones and text messages</p>
<p>S. 15 (116th Congress) TRACED Act <i>(Introduced on January 16, 2019)</i> https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/151/text</p>	<p>This bill implements a forfeiture penalty for violations (with or without intent) of the prohibition on certain robocalls. The bill also removes an annual reporting requirement for enforcement relating to unsolicited facsimile advertisements.</p>

Bills Passed Into Law	
<p>H.R. 748 (116th Congress) Never Forget the Heroes: James Zadroga, Ray Pfeifer, and Luis Alvarez Permanent Authorization of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund Act <i>(Passed into Law on July 29, 2019)</i> https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1327/text</p>	<p>This bill funds through FY2092 the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001. Additionally, the bill modifies the Victim Compensation Fund (VCF):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – to allow claims to be filed until October 2090, – to require VCF policies and procedures to be reassessed at least once every five years (currently, at least once annually), – to require claimants to be paid for the amount by which a claim was reduced on the basis of insufficient funding, – to remove the cap on noneconomic damages in certain circumstances, and – to periodically adjust the annual limit on economic loss compensation for inflation.

New Electronic Titles from the FDLP	
	
<p>Do Not Call: Combating Robocalls and Caller ID Spoofing (112pp.) [PDF Download] https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CHRG-115hrg31614/pdf/CHRG-115hrg31614.pdf</p>	<p>Explores the range of solutions and strategies available to consumers to combat the scourge of robocalls, caller ID spoofing, and telemarketing scams.</p>
<p>Never Forget the Heroes (41pp.) [PDF Download] https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CRPT-116hrpt152/pdf/CRPT-116hrpt152.pdf</p>	<p>Made into law on July 29, 2019, here are the details</p>
<p>America in Space: Future Visions, Current Issues (104pp.) [PDF Download] https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CHRG-116hrg35584/pdf/CHRG-116hrg35584.pdf</p>	<p>Where will America’s civil space program be in the next 10, 20 or 30 years? Multiple past advisory reports have considered this question. A sampling of those reports are listed and summarized in the following sections, as is background on how the space science community prioritizes its future goals. The civil space program is increasingly working in partnership with the growing commercial sector to leverage its capabilities. The state of the space economy and workforce also help enable the ability to carry out the nation’s future visions for space. In addition, the geopolitical environment and the sustainability of the space environment itself are factors affecting the overall context in which the nation’s future space activities and visions will be realized.</p>

<p>Beyond ISIS: Countering Terrorism, Radicalization, and Promoting Stability in North Africa (47pp.) [PDF Download] https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CHRG-115shrg36687/pdf/CHRG-115shrg36687.pdf</p>	<p>The broader region is becoming not just a training ground for terrorist camps, but a base of operation as deeper affiliations with international terrorist organizations are growing. This has profound implications for European security, as smuggling and extremists themselves cross the Mediterranean into Europe. There is an opportunity for the United States to partner with our allies in Europe and the gulf to help bring more stability to the region, and I look forward to hearing our witnesses help explain how we can accomplish this challenging task.</p>
<p>China’s Growing Influence in Asia and the United States (94pp.) [PDF Download] https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CHRG-116hhr36212/pdf/CHRG-116hhr36212.pdf</p>	<p>“In recent years, China has experienced rapid economic growth and is currently the world’s second largest economy. While this level of economic success would typically deserve praise, we must not forget that this growth was achieved through predatory practices that have drastically harmed other nations, including the United States. As a preeminent world leader, the United States is now engaged in a great power competition with China as the Chinese Communist Party under Xi Jinping attempts to challenge American influence and erode American security and prosperity. Xi’s leadership seeks to advance China’s interests, not within the prevailing global order but added expense. For now, it is working. China has no peer competitors along its immediate periphery to be concerned about and plenty of cash to advance its interests in other parts of the world.</p> <p>On surface value, it sounds OK among more than 65 countries on three continents, but if you look deeper, you find predatory lending practices that have beholden other countries to give up strategic ports, land, and infrastructure.”</p>