




**The Ferguson Library**  
**New & Notable Sources of Government Information**  
**January 2019**

<b>Congress.gov</b>		
<b>S.3530 (115<sup>th</sup> Congress) – Museum and Libraries Services Act of 2018</b> (Passed the Senate, December 6, 2018; Held in the House of Representatives) <a href="https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/3530">https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/3530</a>		Continuation of Appropriations Authorization with a few minor changes in the language of the term digital literacy skills; digital literacy skills means: using technology to enable users to find, evaluate, organize, create and communicate info.
<b>H.R. 390 (115<sup>th</sup> Congress) – Iraq and Syria Genocide Relief and Accountability Act of 2018</b> (Passed into law on December 11, 2018) <a href="https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/390">https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/390</a>		This bill states that it is U.S. policy to ensure that humanitarian, stabilization, and recovery assistance for national and residents of Iraq or Syria is directed toward ethnic and minority individual and communities with the greatest need.
<b>H.R. 3356 (115<sup>th</sup> Congress) – First Step Act</b> (Formerly Prison Reform and Redemption Act) <a href="https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/3356">https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/3356</a>		This bill directs the Department of Justice to develop the Post-Sentencing Risk and Needs Assessment System for use by the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) to assess prisoner recidivism risk; guide housing, grouping, and program assignments; and incentivize and reward participation in and completion of recidivism reduction programs and productive activities.
<b>H.R. 6157 (115<sup>th</sup> Congress) - Department of Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2019</b> (Passed into law on September 28, 2018) <a href="https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/6157">https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/6157</a>		Regarding the opioid crisis: The NIH (National Institute of Health) may transfer funds specifically appropriated for opioid addiction, opioid alternatives, pain management, and addiction treatment to other Institutes and Centers of the NIH to be used for the same purpose 15 days after notifying the Committees on Appropriations: Provided, That the transfer authority provided in the previous proviso is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law.
<b>H.R. 5774 (115<sup>th</sup> Congress) – Combating Opioid Abuse for Care in Hospitals Act of 2018</b> <a href="https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/5774">https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/5774</a>		This bill requires the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to publish guidance for hospitals on pain management and opioid-use disorder prevention strategies for Medicare beneficiaries.
<b>H.R. 6 (115<sup>th</sup> Congress) – SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act</b> (Passed into law on October 24, 2018) <a href="https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/6">https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/6</a>		Address Medicaid and Medicare provisions

**H.R. 1918 (115<sup>th</sup> Congress) – Nicaraguan Investment Conditionality Act of 2017**

(Passed into law on December 20, 2018)

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1918>

Calls for sanctions against Nicaraguan officials involved in human rights violations and corruption.

**New and Notable Titles from the Federal Depository Library Program**



**Bankruptcy and Student Loans**

(Congressional Research Service)

<https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R45113/3>

As overall student loan indebtedness in the United States has increased over the years, many borrowers have found themselves unable to repay their student loans. Ordinarily, declaring bankruptcy is a means by which a debtor may discharge, that is, obtain relief from debts he is unable to repay. However, Congress, based upon its determination that allowing debtors to freely discharge student loans in bankruptcy could threaten the student loan program, has limited the circumstances in which a debtor may discharge a student loan. Under current law, a debtor may not discharge a student loan unless repaying the student loan would impose an undue hardship upon the debtor and his dependents.

The Bankruptcy Code (11 U.S.C. 523) does not define undue hardship, and the legislative history of Section 523 does not precisely specify how courts should determine whether a debtor qualifies for an undue hardship discharge. The task of interpreting this statutory term has consequently fallen to the federal judiciary. Courts, however, have disagreed regarding exactly what a debtor must prove in order to discharge a student loan on undue hardship grounds.

**Amtrak Overview**

(Congressional Research Service)

<https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R44973/4>

Amtrak is the nation's primary provider of intercity passenger rail service. It was created by Congress in 1970 to preserve some level of intercity passenger rail service while enabling private rail companies to exit the money-losing passenger rail business. However, it still loses money: it runs a deficit each year and relies on congressional appropriations; it is a quasi-government entity whose stock is almost entirely owned by the federal government.

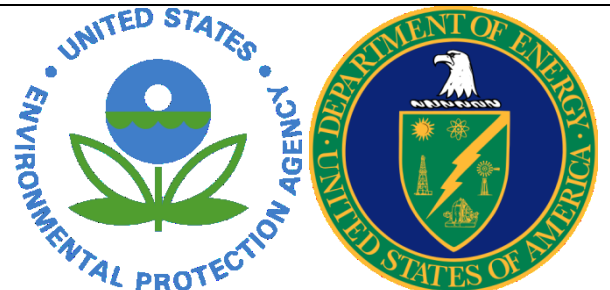
By some measures, Amtrak is performing as well as or better than it ever has in its 47-year history. For example, it is carrying a near-record number of passengers. On the other hand, Amtrak's ridership is barely growing at a time when other transportation modes are seeing ridership increases. Improvements are expected to be extremely costly.

**Combating the Opioid Crisis: Improving the Ability of Medicare and Medicaid to Provide Care for Patients**

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CHRG-114hhrg31268/pdf/CHRG-114hhrg31268.pdf>

This hearing addresses the opioid epidemic. “With the crisis devastating our country and eroding our economic productivity, we must think creatively about how to combat this scourge of opiate abuse. Congress can pass bills to increase access to evidence-based treatment, but if we need enough physicians equipped with proper tools and training to provide treatments for individuals suffering from this disorder. Legislation has been drafted that will provide Congress with more robust transparency about how graduate medical education dollars under current law are helping equip the next generation of doctors to better identify and treat patients with substance use disorder. Medicaid is the largest payer for behavioral health services, including SUD (Substance Use Disorder) in the United States .Medicaid delivers care to 4 of 10 nonelderly adults with opioid use disorder. Nearly 12 percent of adults enrolled in Medicaid have SUD, or born with neonatal abstinence syndrome, NAS. Medicaid covers more than 80 percent of the NAS babies nationwide. Medicare also plays an important role in the opioid crisis. More than one million seniors suffered from substance use disorders in 2014. While Medicare part B and part D provide SUD treatment services, there are significant gaps in Medicare’s benefits, including no coverage for substance abuse treatment at opioid treatment programs or methadone clinics.”

**U.S Department of Energy & Environmental Protection Agency**



**Fuel Economy Guide**

<https://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/guides.shtml>

Each year, the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publish the Fuel Economy Guide to help consumers make informed decisions when purchasing vehicle. The Guide features fuel economy, annual fuel cost, and emissions information for new model year cars, sport utility vehicles, and light trucks. If you would like to be e-mailed an electronic version of the 2019 Fuel Economy Guide, you can obtain a printable, electronic version each year at the link to the left. DOE and EPA have also developed the fuel economy website, [www.fueleconomy.gov](http://www.fueleconomy.gov), which features updated fuel economy data for new and used passenger vehicles dating back to 1984, allows side-by-side vehicle comparisons, and offers fuel saving

tips. The website also contains vehicle-specific air pollutions emissions information and safety ratings and provides links to car buying websites. This can help you make an informed automotive purchase decisions.

**The Library of Congress**



**LIBRARY OF CONGRESS**

**Today in History**

<p><i>January 9, 1788</i>  <b>Connecticut ratifies the Constitution</b>  <a href="https://www.loc.gov/item/today-in-history/january-09">https://www.loc.gov/item/today-in-history/january-09</a></p>	<p>They became the fifth state in the Union</p>
<p><i>January 15, 1929</i>  <b>Martin Luther King Jr. was born in Atlanta, Georgia</b>  <a href="https://www.loc.gov/item/today-in-history/january-15">https://www.loc.gov/item/today-in-history/january-15</a></p>	<p>Twentieth century’s most effective and compelling Civil Rights Leader, here is an excerpt from his Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech:  <i>“I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality.”</i> – December 10, 1964</p>
<p><i>January 23, 1964</i>  <b>The 24<sup>th</sup> Amendment is ratified eliminating the poll tax</b>  <a href="https://www.loc.gov/item/today-in-history/january-23#the-poll-tax-twenty-fourth-amendment-ratified">https://www.loc.gov/item/today-in-history/january-23#the-poll-tax-twenty-fourth-amendment-ratified</a></p>	<p>President Lyndon B. Johnson noted: Nothing is so valuable as liberty, and nothing is so necessary to liberty as the freedom to vote without bans or barriers... There can be no one too poor to vote.</p>
<p><i>January 27, 1851</i>  <b>John James Audubon dies</b>  <a href="https://www.loc.gov/item/today-in-history/january-27">https://www.loc.gov/item/today-in-history/january-27</a></p>	<p>Audubon was a naturalist and artist famous for his drawings and paintings of North American birds. He died at his home in New York City.          In 1886, George Bird Grinnell, editor of Forest and Stream, founded the first Audubon Society of New York, a forerunner of the National Audubon Society. Grinnell named the organization for John James Audubon, dedicating it to the preservation of birds and their protection from the increasing threat of extinction. After 1900, the National Association of Audubon Societies supported the effort to end U.S. participation in the international trade in wild bird feathers. Extermination threatened many birds hunted for plumage essential to fashionable women’s hats. An act of Congress in 1913 banned importation of such feathers except for scientific or educational purposes.</p>