CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

S 4021

SENATE RESOLUTION 84

Whereas the provision included in the federal Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 which banned the sale of semi-automatic assault weapons is set to expire on September 1, 1997; and

Whereas the assault weapons covered by the ban are not designed for sport use, but incorporate military features intended for combat, assault, and war; and

Whereas the ban not only required domestic gun manufacturers to stop producing semi-automatic assault weapons and ammunition clips which held more than 10 rounds, except for military or police use, but also halted imports of assault weapons not already bad; and

Whereas prior to their ban, semi-automatic assault weapons had become the ‘weapon of choice’ for drug traffickers, gangs and paramilitary extremist groups; and

Whereas many major national law enforcement organizations support the federal assault weapons ban, in light of their high firepower and ability to penetrate body armor; and

Whereas one in five police officers slain in the line of duty during the years 1998 through 2001 were killed with an assault weapon; and

Whereas assault rifles have been used in some of the nation’s most shocking crimes, including the Stockton schoolyard massacre, the CIA headquarters shootings, and the Branch-Davidian standoff in Waco, Texas; and

Whereas the continuing confiscation of assault weapons from crime scenes will result in criminals having less access to these dangerous weapons; and

Whereas there are various bills pending in Congress which would have the affect of reauthorizing the assault weapons ban, including a proposal to postpone the sunset of the provision for ten years and another to repeal the ban on September 13, 2004; and

Whereas prior to their ban, semi-automatic assault weapons had become the ‘weapon of choice’ for drug traffickers, gangs and paramilitary extremist groups; and

Whereas the nation are urged to enact a reauthorization of the federal Assault Weapons Ban of 1994; and

Whereas the ban not only required domestic gun manufacturers to stop producing semi-automatic assault weapons and ammunition clips which held more than 10 rounds, except for military or police use, but also halted imports of assault weapons not already banned; and

Whereas prior to their ban, semi-automatic assault weapons had become the “weapon of choice” for drug traffickers, gangs and paramilitary extremist groups; and

Whereas many major national law enforcement organizations support the federal assault weapons ban, in light of their high firepower and ability to penetrate body armor; and

Whereas one in five police officers slain in the line of duty during the years 1998 through 2001 were killed with an assault weapon; and

Whereas assault rifles have been used in some of the nation’s most shocking crimes, including the Stockton schoolyard massacre, the CIA headquarters shootings, and the Branch-Davidian standoff in Waco, Texas; and

Whereas the continuing confiscation of assault weapons from crime scenes will result in criminals having less access to these dangerous weapons; and

Whereas there are various bills pending in Congress which would have the affect of reauthorizing the assault weapons ban, including a proposal to postpone the sunset of the provision for ten years and another to repeal the sunset date entirely: Now therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:

1. The President and the Congress of the United States are urged to enact a reauthorization of the assault weapons ban. The members of this State’s Congressional delegation are urged to work diligently to achieve the enactment of this legislation.

2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the President of the Senate and attested by the Secretary thereof, shall be transmitted to the Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority and minority leaders of the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives, and each member of Congress elected from this State.

POM-55. A resolution adopted by the City Commission of the City of Lauderdale Lakes of the State of Florida relative to the community development block grant program (“CDBG”); to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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. LUGAR:

S. 853. A bill to direct the Secretary of State to establish a program to bolster the mutual security and safety of the United States and Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. FEINGOLD:

S. 854. A bill to require labeling of raw agricultural forms of Ginseng, including the country of harvest, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. COLLINS:

S. 855. A bill to improve the security of the Nation’s ports by providing Federal grants to support Area Maritime Transportation Security Plans and to address vulnerabilities in port areas identified in approved vulnerability assessments or by the Secretary of Homeland Security; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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

S. 856. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend the minimum medicare deadlines for filing claims to take into account delay in processing adjustment from secondary payer status to primary payer status; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SUNUNU (for himself, Mr. BROWNACK, and Mr. DEMINT):

S. 857. A bill to reform Social Security by establishing a Security Savings Program and to provide new limitations on the Federal Budget; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. VOINOVICH (for himself and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 858. A bill to reauthorize Nuclear Regulatory Commission user fees, and other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SANTORUM (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. ALSHABAB):

S. 859. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an income tax credit to homeowners and other households to encourage homeownership and community development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 860. A bill to amend the National Assessment of Educational Progress Authorization Act to require State academic assessments of student achievement in United States history and civics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. ROCKEFELLER):

S. 861. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide transition funding rules for plans electing to cease or suspend future benefit accruals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. 862. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase inpatient hospital payments under the Medicare Program to Puerto Rico hospitals; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CONRAD (for himself, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. Baucus, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. DODD, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FIORELLO, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LUTENBERG, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. NELSON OF FLORIDA, Mr. NELSON OF NEBRASKA, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. STEVENS, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 863. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centenary of the bestowal of the Nobel Peace Prize on President Theodore Roosevelt, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. VOINOVICH):

S. 864. A bill to amend the Atomic Energy Act of 1946 to modify provisions relating to the national safety of nuclear weapons, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. VOINOVICH:

S. 865. A bill to amend the Atomic Energy Act of 1946 to reauthorize the Price-Anderson provisions; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. MURRAY:

S. J. Res. 16. A joint resolution authorizing special awards to World War I and World War II veterans of the United States Armed Guard; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. CRAPO:

S. Res. 114. A resolution recognizing the 100th anniversary of the American Thoracic Society, celebrating its achievements, and encouraging the Society to continue offering guidance on lung-related health issues to the people of the United States and to the world; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SALAZAR (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. Bunning, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. Res. 115. A resolution designating May 2005 as “National Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month”; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. DOLE (for herself, Mr. BURK, added as Cozine, and Mr. SANTORUM):

S. Res. 116. A resolution commemorating the life, achievements, and contributions of Frederick C. Branch; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. SANTORUM):

S. Res. 117. A resolution designating the week of May 9, 2005, as “National Hepatitis B Awareness Week”; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 98

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 98, a bill to amend the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 and the Revised Statutes of the United States to prohibit financial holding companies and national banks from engaging, directly or indirectly, in real estate brokerage or real estate management activities, and for other purposes.

S. 154

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 154, a bill to grant a Federal charter to the National American Indian Veterans, Incorporated.

S. 185

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 185, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for the reduction of certain Survivor Benefit Plan
annuities by the amount of dependency and indemnity compensation and to modify the effective date for paid-up coverage under the Survivor Benefit Plan.

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 211, a bill to facilitate nationwide availability of 2-1-1 telephone service for information and referral on human services, volunteer services, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 217, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to preserve the essential air service program.

At the request of Mr. Bunning, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 246, a bill to repeal the sunset of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 with respect to the expansion of the adoption credit and adoption assistance programs.

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 300, a bill to extend the temporary increase in payments under the medicare program for home health services furnished in a rural area.

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 300, supra.

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 371, a bill to provide for college quality, affordability, and diversity, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. ALLEN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 432, a bill to establish a digital and wireless network technology program, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Bunning, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 440, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to include podiatrists as physicians for purposes of covering physicians services under the medicaid program.

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 473, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to promote and improve the allied health professions.

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 500, a bill to regulate information brokers and protect individual rights with respect to personally identifiable information.

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 501, a bill to provide a site for the National Women’s History Museum in the District of Columbia.

At the request of Mr. BYRD, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 515, a bill to amend title 32, United States Code, to increase the maximum Federal share of the costs of State programs under the National Guard Youth Challenge Program, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 521, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish, promote, and support a comprehensive prevention, research, and medical management referral program for hepatitis C virus infection.

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 559, a bill to make the protection of vulnerable populations, especially women and children, who are affected by a humanitarian emergency a priority of the United States Government, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE), and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PYOR) were added as cosponsors of S. 604, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under part B of the medicare program, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. THOMAS, the names of the Senator from California (Ms. BOXER) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 764, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under part B of the medicare program, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 802, a bill to establish a National Drought Council within the Department of Agriculture, to improve national drought preparedness, mitigation, and response efforts, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. STEVENS, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 821, a bill to require the
Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the founding of America's National Parks, and for other purposes.

S. 841

At the request of Mrs. Clinton, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. Murray) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. Feingold) were added as cosponsors of S. 841, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 393

At the request of Mr. DeWine, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Leahy) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 342 proposed to H.R. 1268, making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 384

At the request of Mr. Kiol, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. Johnson), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. Roberts), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. Dolle), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. Lugar), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. Bingaman), the Senator from Maryland (Mrs. Sarbanes), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. Nelson), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. Hagel), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. Bond) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. Biden) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 380 proposed to H.R. 1268, making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 396

At the request of Mr. Shelby, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. Dorgan) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 466 proposed to H.R. 1268, making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 402

At the request of Mrs. Lincoln, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. Pryor) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 498 proposed to H.R. 1268, making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 482

At the request of Mr. Byrd, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. Bingaman) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 516 proposed to H.R. 1268, making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 498

At the request of Mr. Baucus, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. Craig), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. Chambliss), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. Roberts), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. Enzi), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. Dorgan), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. Harkin), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. Lugar) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. Johnson) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 549 proposed to H.R. 1268, making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 516

At the request of Mr. Baucus, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. Craig), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. Chambliss), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. Roberts), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. Enzi), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. Dorgan), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. Harkin), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. Lugar) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. Johnson) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 549 proposed to H.R. 1268, making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence, and for other purposes.
expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LUGAR:

S. 853. A bill to direct the Secretary of State to establish a program to bolster the mutual security and safety of the United States, Canada, and Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the North American Cooperative Security Act, NACSA. The purpose of this bill is to enhance the mutual security and safety of the United States, Canada, and Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

The Department of Transportation reports that goods worth more than $633 billion crossed our land borders in 2004. According to the Census Bureau more than 26 million of the 39 million individuals originating who are legal residents in the United States are of Mexican background.

But our land borders also serve as a conduit for illegal immigration, drugs, and other illicit items. Given the threat of international terrorism, there is great concern that our land borders could also serve as a channel for international terrorists and weapons of mass destruction.

The threat of terrorist penetration is particularly acute along our southern border. In 2004, fewer than 10,000 individuals were apprehended entering the U.S. illegally through our 5,000 mile land border with Canada. This compares with the more than 1.1 million that were apprehended while trying to cross our 2,000 mile border with Mexico. The Department of Homeland Security reports that about 996,000 of these individuals were Mexicans crossing the border for economic or family reasons.

The Homeland Security Department refers to the rest as “other than Mexi-