Mr. LAUTENBERG] was added as a cosponsor of S. 119, a bill to provide for the protection of unaccompanied alien children, and for other purposes.

S. 481

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CHAMBER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 481, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.

S. 1366

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. CON. RES. 37

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1035, a bill to authorize the issuance of commemorative medals on behalf of Congress to Native Americans who served as Code Talkers during foreign conflicts in which the United States was involved during the 20th century in recognition of the service of those Native Americans to the United States.

S. 1357

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1357, a bill to protect public health by clarifying the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to prescribe performance standards for the reduction of pathogens in meat, meat products, poultry, and poultry products processed by establishments receiving inspection services and to enforce the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) System requirements, sanitation requirements, and the performance standards.

S. 1504

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1504, a bill to establish a market driven telecommunications marketplace, to eliminate government managed competition of existing communication service, and to provide parity between functionally equivalent services.

S. 1719

At the request of Mr. INOUYE, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1719, a bill to provide for the preservation of the historic confinement sites where Japanese Americans were detained during World War II, and for other purposes.

S. 1863

At the request of Mr. GREIG, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1863, a bill to establish the Gulf Coast Recovery and Disaster Preparedness Agency, and for other purposes.

S. 1878

At the request of Mr. AZAKA, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1878, a bill to prohibit predatory payday loans, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 37

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 37, a concurrent resolution honoring the life of Sister Dorothy Stang.

S. RES. 273

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DE MINT) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 273, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and expressing the sense of the Senate that Congress should demonstrate and domestic violence in the United States and its devastating effects on families.

AMENDMENT NO. 2193

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. BROWNBACK) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. TALENT) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2193 proposed to H.R. 3010, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2200

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. Pryor) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2194 proposed to H.R. 3010, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2196

At the request of Mr. TALENT, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2196 proposed to H.R. 3010, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2204

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2204 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3010, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2208

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2208 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3010, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. ENSIGN (for himself, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. BYRD, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. LOTT, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. DE MINT):

S. 1915. A bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to prohibit shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, receiving, possessing, purchasing, selling, or donation of horses and other equines to be slaughtered for human consumption, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. ENIGN. Mr. President, I rise along with my colleagues, Senators LANDRIEU, BYRD, SPECTER, LOTT, LIEBERMAN, INOUYE, LEVIN, and DE MINT, in order to introduce the Virgie S. Arden American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act.

As a veterinarian, I am well aware of the love that Americans have for their horses. Much of our Nation’s early history and culture is associated with these animals. We think of George Washington’s horses and the legend of Paul of Virginia’s horse Pauqe Express. More recently, we were reminded of how the Depression Era race between Seabiscuit and War Admiral...
Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce my comprehensive immigration reform legislation. This legislative package consists of four bills that deal with national security, employment security, America’s workforce, and bringing accountability to those living here illegally. This package is an enhanced version of immigration reform legislation I introduced in 2004 with former Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle.

Immigration reform is an urgent national security priority. We cannot continue to defer making tough choices about our nation’s immigration policy. It is not in our interest to have 8 to 12 million people undocumented and unaccounted for in our country. The American people won’t accept immigration reform until they are convinced we are controlling our borders. Congress must reform the patchwork of immigration laws that have created an underground, black market labor force. The first bill is the Strengthening America’s Security Act of 2005. The bill strengthens national security and U.S. borders by assisting law enforcement in their efforts to secure our borders. It will increase the number of Customs and Border Protection officers; require DHS to use updated technology at the border; increase criminal penalties for alien smuggling, drug trafficking, and immigration laws that have created an underground, black market labor force. The first bill is the Strengthening America’s Security Act of 2005. The bill strengthens national security and U.S. borders by assisting law enforcement in their efforts to secure our borders. It will increase the number of Customs and Border Protection officers; require DHS to use updated technology at the border; increase criminal penalties for alien smuggling, drug trafficking, and alien smuggling, drug trafficking, and violation of social security numbers, gang violence, and drug trafficking at the border; authorize continued funds to reimburse states for the costs of detaining undocumented aliens; and give DHS additional tools to detain and deport undocumented aliens.

The second bill, the Employment Verification Act of 2005, requires employers to verify the employment eligibility of their employees. The bill will assist all employers in their effort to hire legal workers by establishing a mandatory electronic worker verification system. The system would be managed by DHS in conjunction with the Social Security Administration. The system will allow employers to immediately verify whether an individual is authorized to work in the U.S. and by the federal government and by certain employers across the country, including some in Nebraska. The system will be phased-in over a 5 year period, starting with large employers. The legislation includes protections to ensure that the system will not result in hiring discrimination based on race or national origin, nor will it interfere with the regular hiring process. Employers who use the system will receive a “safe harbor” from prosecution for hiring unauthorized workers.

The Strengthening America’s Workforce Act of 2005 will amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to address the demand for foreign workers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HAGEL:
S. 1916. A bill to strengthen national security and United States borders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HAGEL:
S. 1917. A bill to require employers to verify the employment eligibility of their employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HAGEL:
S. 1918. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to address the demand for foreign workers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HAGEL:
S. 1919. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act in order to unify families, to provide for earned adjustment of status, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.
The demand for foreign workers. The bill will provide foreign workers for low-skilled jobs that would otherwise go unfilled by admitting a limited number of workers annually through a new temporary worker program. Employers seeking to hire foreign workers through this program must first demonstrate that no qualified U.S. worker exists and that they will provide the same wage levels and working conditions as U.S. workers. Workers will be admitted for a limited period of time and will be allowed to change employers. Visas are good for 2 years and can be renewed. Qualified workers and their families would be provided an opportunity to adjust their immigration status over time.

In order to address the need for high-tech workers and to reduce the existing worker visa backlog, this legislation would allow foreign students who have earned an advanced degree in science, technology, engineering or math from U.S. colleges and universities to receive a H-1B work visa without leaving the country and without regard to the annual cap of 65,000. In addition, high-tech workers who have worked in the U.S. for three years may be allowed to adjust to permanent resident status without regard to the annual cap of 140,000. The spouses and children of immigrant workers would also be allowed to adjust status without regard to this cap.

In order to encourage more foreign students to study in the U.S., this legislation would give full-time foreign college and graduate students the opportunity to work part-time while studying at U.S. universities.

The fourth bill, the Immigrant Accountability Act of 2005, will amend the Immigration and Nationality Act in order to encourage those in the U.S. illegally to apply for legal status. The legislation would create a long-term immigration status for legal status over time.

There is a backlog reduction provision in the bill that would exempt certain individuals, living outside the U.S., from existing caps on family-based immigrant visas. This section was originally included in the 2004 Hagel/Daschle Immigration Reform bill.

The new fines and fees created by this legislation would fund the new and expanded programs created in it. Fines assessed by this legislation could total as much as $12 billion. A majority of the funds will come from the $2000 fine paid by illegal aliens who would pay under the Earned Adjustment Program. This bill is a product of years of discussions with law enforcement, business, labor, and advocacy communities. The bills are a serious effort to meet the President's principles for reform with commonsense legislation. In addition to the program of border security, the bill includes the Mariposa-Nogales Port of Entry in Arizona at the U.S.-Mexico border and saw first-hand border patrol operations with U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents.

I understand that immigration reform is a complex and difficult issue. In addition to the legislation I have introduced today, there are other proposals on the table. The American people won't accept any more excuses. Now is the time for us to stop deferring tough decisions and take action on this urgent national priority.

Mr. OBAMA.

S. 1920. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to establish a renewable diesel standard and to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works is considering legislation to increase petroleum refinery capacity in the United States. The argument is that the shortage of domestic refining capacity is contributing to the rising price of gasoline which, in turn, is squeezing our pocketbooks and complicating our Nation's economic future. The theory is that relaxing environmental regulations will unlock long dormant investment in new domestic refining capacity. It is incumbent upon industry and the congressional supporters of this bill to document that environmental regulation has in fact blocked such investment. Testimony has been provided on both sides of that proposition.

What seems to me to be less debatable is that any legislative effort to address deficient refining capacity should include the encouragement of domestic nonpetroleum refinery infrastructure. If we are serious about reducing our country's dependence on imported petroleum and insulating our economy from future supply disruption shocks—whether from the volatile Middle East or natural disasters such as Katrina—then the use of more alternative fuel refineries should be part of that strategy. After all, even if we have more petroleum refineries, we won't have any more crude oil to process through them, unless we import more. That is not what I would define as "progress."

This past summer, Congress passed the Energy Policy Act. As my colleagues know, that law includes a bold, bipartisan initiative to help wean our Nation from its petroleum dependency: the Renewable Fuels Standard, RFS. The RFS establishes that the national gasoline supply will consist of at least 7.5 billion gallons of homegrown ethanol by the year 2012. The RFS also commits the country to the greater use of biodiesel in our fuel supply.

As Congress looks to expand domestic gasoline supply, a stronger signal should be sent that the U.S. Government is serious about growing our domestic supply and reducing our dependence on foreign oil—by reducing the amount of imported crude oil used to meet any portion of our demand. That is why today I am introducing legislation to create a Renewable Diesel Standard, with the goal of 2 billion gallons annually of alternative and renewable diesel by 2015.

Biodiesel is used in a wide variety of transportation modes: transit buses; semi trucks; ships; heavy duty construction, farming and mining equipment; military vehicles; locomotives; barges; large scale generators; farm and mining equipment; and in many people's individual cars and trucks. While not as large of a market as gasoline, petrodiesel is enormously significant.

A Renewable Diesel Standard would focus alternative fuel production strongly on the world of diesel engine vehicles. And engines that use biodiesel can also use other types of fuel diesel, like biodiesel, or Fischer Tropsch diesel, with little or no engine modification.

This interchangeability helps in time of diesel shortages. It helps keep diesel prices competitive. And, as diesel is made from domestic feedstocks, it reduces our reliance on foreign crude oil. During a time of severe fuel shortages—especially when diesel is the fuel for workhorse vehicles like buses, bulldozers, or military equipment that are so important in times of emergency.

In recent months, Illinois farmers have raised concerns with me regarding the high cost of diesel fuel. Imagine how biodiesel and diesel alternatives could help mitigate fuel costs for farmers who now mostly rely on diesel fuel made from foreign oil. Imagine how biodiesel or coal diesel could help truckers and other small business owners, whose profit margins are so seriously affected by unforeseen price spikes in petrodiesel for semi trucks.
For my colleagues who have staked out opposing positions in the CAFE debate, a Renewable Diesel Standard would, like the RFS, lay the groundwork for increasing “miles per gallon” per vehicle in terms of petroleum usage. And wasn’t that the underlying intent of CAFE in the first place when it was enacted in 1975—to reduce our use of petroleum, especially imported oil and petroleum products?

This bill does not propose that 10 percent of the national petroleum pool be strengthened with diesel alternatives. It proposes only 1 percent of the national supply.

That is hardly painful for the petroleum industry. This initiative would not in any way dent the oil industry’s record-shattering profits. It is, however, a bold initiative for those entrepreneurs who know that new diesels work and are willing to prove it by investing on a commercial scale. They know we can make diesel from soybeans, from sunflower seeds, from coal, and even from garbage. Let’s give them stronger assurance that the United States intends to capitalize on their vision, ingenuity, and expertise in the cause of energy independence.

Right now, there is an estimated 180 million gallons of biodiesel production capacity in the United States. Fifty-four companies have reported their plans to construct dedicated biodiesel plants in the near future, but those plans are dependent upon regional and national demand prospects.

Current domestic petroleum demand is estimated to be high enough in the coming years that the United States would need to construct a 400,000 barrel per day petroleum refinery each year to meet market projections. Yet no new petroleum refineries have been built in the United States in a quarter century. During the same period, however, more than 120 refineries have been built for ethanol and biodiesel, with more in the works. And the good news is: unlike petroleum refineries, our ethanol and biodiesel refineries do not require imported oil as raw material to make the finished product.

Mr. President, hundreds of millions of gallons of diesel are possible within the timeline proposed in my legislation, making another small but bold step to create jobs in rural America, strengthen our economic security, and improve air quality. A Renewable Diesel Standard is the right course for the Nation’s future. I hope my colleagues will join me in cosponsoring this legislation, and I ask their support for swift enactment.

SENATE RESOLUTION 286—COMMENDING THE GRAND OLE OPRY ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 80TH ANNIVERSARY FOR ITS IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE POPULARIZATION OF COUNTRY MUSIC AND FOR ITS 8 DECADES OF MUSICAL AND BROADCAST EXCELLENCE

Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. AXANDER) submitted the following resolution, which was considered and agreed to:

WHEREAS the Grand Ole Opry is a pioneer of commercial radio in the United States, and is the longest running continuous radio program in the United States, having operated since November 28, 1925, and having broadcast over 4,000 consecutive Saturday evening shows on WSM Radio, Nashville, Tennessee;
WHEREAS the Grand Ole Opry played an integral role in the commercial development of the country music industry, and in establishing Nashville, Tennessee, as “Music City USA”;
WHEREAS the Grand Ole Opry has consistently promoted the best in live entertainment and provided a distinctive forum for connecting country music fans to musicians so as to promote the popularity of this uniquely American genre;
WHEREAS the Grand Ole Opry serves as a unique American icon that enshrines the rich musical history of country music, and preserves the tradition and character of the genre through commemorative performances and events;
WHEREAS the Grand Ole Opry is committed to quality performances, and the membership of the Grand Ole Opry represents the elite of country music performers, including generations of America’s most talented musicians, encompassing the music legends of old and the superstars of today that continue to define America’s folk, country, bluegrass, gospel, and comedy performances;
WHEREAS performers at the Grand Ole Opry have included such universally recognized names as Roy Acuff, Chet Atkins, Garth Brooks, Patsy Cline, Vince Gill, Alan Jackson, Grandpa, Jone Lynn, Dolly Parton, Minnie Pearl, Jim Reeves, Ernest Tubb, Hank Williams, Patsy Montana, and many more;
WHEREAS the Grand Ole Opry celebrates the diversity of country music, with membership spanning both generation and genre, representing the best in folk, country, bluegrass, gospel, and comedy performances;
WHEREAS the Grand Ole Opry continues to utilize technological innovations to develop new avenues of connecting country music to its fans, and can be seen and heard around the world via television, radio, satellite radio, and the Internet;
WHEREAS the Grand Ole Opry provides heartening support to members of the Armed Forces by participating in the Department of Defense’s America Supports You Program, providing entertainment to American Forces serving aboard via the American Forces Radio and Television Services network;
WHEREAS the Grand Ole Opry is recognized as the world’s premiere country music show, and continues to entertain millions of fans throughout the world, including United States Presidents and world dignitaries, and serves as an emissary of American music and culture; and
WHEREAS the Grand Ole Opry will continue to impact American culture and music, and play an important role in presenting the best in country music to new generations of fans throughout the world, touching millions with music and comedy: Now, therefore, be it
Resolved, That the Senate commends the Grand Ole Opry on the occasion of its 80th anniversary for its important role in the popularization of country music, and for its 8 decades of musical and broadcast excellence.

SENATE RESOLUTION 287—HONORING THE LIFEOF AND EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENESSES OF THE SENATE ON THE PASSING OF ROSA PARKS

Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. FRIST, Mr. REID, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. Voinovich, Mr. Martinez, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. TALENT, Mr. McCONNELL, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. THOMAS, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. HARKIN, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution, which was considered and agreed to:

WHEREAS Rosa Parks was born on February 4, 1913, as Rosa Louise McCauley, to James and Lousa McCauley in Tuskegee, Alabama; WHEREAS her moral clarity and quiet dignity shaped and inspired the Civil Rights Movement in the United States over the last half century; WHEREAS Rosa Parks was educated in Pine Level, Alabama, until the age of 11, when she enrolled in the Montgomery Industrial School for Girls and then went on to attend the Alabama State Teachers College High School; WHEREAS on December 18, 1932, Rosa McCauley married Raymond Parks and settled in Montgomery, Alabama; WHEREAS, together, Raymond and Rosa Parks worked in the Montgomery, Alabama branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), where Raymond Parks served as an active member and Rosa Parks served as a secretary and youth leader; WHEREAS on December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat in the “colored” section of the bus to a white man on the orders of the bus driver because the “white” section was full; WHEREAS the arrest of Rosa Parks led African Americans and others to boycott the Montgomery city buses until the buses in Montgomery were desegregated; WHEREAS the 381-day Montgomery bus boycott encouraged other courageous people across the United States to organize in protest and demand equal rights for all; WHEREAS most historians date the beginning of the modern-day Civil Rights Movement in the United States to December 1, 1955; WHEREAS the fearless acts of civil disobedience displayed by Rosa Parks and others resulted in a legal action challenging Montgomery’s segregated public transportation system, which subsequently led to the United States Supreme Court, on November 13, 1956, affirming a district court decision that held that Montgomery segregation codes deny and deprive African Americans of the equal protection of the laws (352 U.S. 608); WHEREAS in 1957, Rosa Parks moved to Detroit, Michigan;