

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1, a bill to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes.

S. 30

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 30, a bill to require the Secretary of Defense to develop and implement a plan to provide chiropractic health care services for certain covered beneficiaries as part of the TRICARE program.

S. 39

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 39, a bill to provide that Members of Congress may not receive pay after October 1 of any fiscal year in which Congress has not approved a concurrent resolution on the budget and passed the regular appropriations bills.

S. 64

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) were added as cosponsors of S. 64, a bill to prohibit brand name drug companies from compensating generic drug companies to delay the entry of a generic drug into the market, and to prohibit biological product manufacturers from compensating biosimilar and interchangeable companies to delay the entry of biosimilar biological products and interchangeable biological products.

S. 97

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 97, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to allow for the importation of affordable and safe drugs by wholesale distributors, pharmacies, and individuals.

S. 104

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 104, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions.

S. 113

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) were added as cosponsors of S. 113, a bill to appropriate

funds for pay and allowances of excepted Federal employees, and for other purposes.

S. 152

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 152, a bill to direct the President to impose penalties pursuant to denial orders with respect to certain Chinese telecommunications companies that are in violation of the export control or sanctions laws of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 162

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 162, a bill to provide back pay to low-wage contractor employees, and for other purposes.

S. 178

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 178, a bill to condemn gross human rights violations of ethnic Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, and calling for an end to arbitrary detention, torture, and harassment of these communities inside and outside China.

S. 200

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 200, a bill to prohibit the conduct of a first-use nuclear strike absent a declaration of war by Congress.

S. 201

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 201, a bill to amend title 13, United States Code, to make clear that each decennial census, as required for the apportionment of Representatives in Congress among the several States, shall tabulate the total number of persons in each State, and to provide that no information regarding United States citizenship or immigration status may be elicited in any such census.

S. 203

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 203, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the railroad track maintenance credit, and for other purposes.

S. 226

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of S. 226, a bill to clarify the rights of Indians and Indian Tribes on Indian lands under the National Labor Relations Act.

S.J. RES. 3

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the names of the Senator from Ne-

braska (Mrs. FISCHER) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 3, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to balancing the budget.

S. RES. 22

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 22, a resolution condemning the terrorist attack in Nairobi, Kenya on January 15, 2019, and offering sincere condolences to all of the victims, their families and friends, and the people of Kenya.

S. RES. 23

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 23, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Countering International Parental Child Abduction Month and expressing the sense of the Senate that Congress should raise awareness of the harm caused by international parental child abduction.

S. RES. 27

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 27, a resolution calling for a prompt multinational freedom of navigation operation in the Black Sea and urging the cancellation of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. JONES):

S. 240. A bill to require the Internal Revenue Service to establish, incrementally over five years, a nationwide program to provide personal identification numbers to taxpayers to help prevent tax-related identity theft; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, this is the first day in which Americans across the country are eligible to file their 2018 tax returns. I rise today to introduce with my colleague from Alabama, Senator JONES, the Taxpayer Identity Protection Act. Our bill seeks to help prevent American taxpayers, including our seniors, from falling victim to identity theft and tax refund fraud.

Last year, the IRS received nearly 142 million individual income tax returns. Nearly 75 percent of these returns were eligible for refunds. For the most part, these refunds are the return of dollars belonging to taxpayers that were overwithheld from their paychecks in the prior year. Millions of American families eagerly await these tax refunds—money they may need to pay off debts, settle medical bills, or plug gaps in the family budget.

Unfortunately for some Americans, these refunds never come or are long delayed due to identity theft. Criminals have figured out that, in many instances, it is cheaper and easier for

them to steal taxpayers' identities and hijack their tax refunds than it is to traffic in drugs or rob banks.

Identity theft-refund fraud occurs when a criminal files a false tax return using a stolen Social Security number and other sensitive personal information from sources such as hospitals, schools, or assisted living facilities, sometimes by recruiting employees to steal that personal information. The fraudster then uses the data to prepare fraudulent tax returns. The thieves make sure to file early—as soon as the tax season opens in January—to increase their odds that they can get a tax refund before the real taxpayer who is entitled to the refund files his or her return.

The criminals are known to hold what they call make it rain parties, where they bring stolen laptops to a motel room with internet access and work together churning out scores of these fake tax returns. These criminals work under the premise of “file early, file often.” Once the thieves file the fraudulent tax return, the IRS processes it and issues the tax refund. With each refund worth on average \$2,778, the money can add up pretty quickly for these criminals.

This is by no means a victimless crime. In 2017, the Federal Trade Commission received more than 371,000 complaints of identity theft, including 82,000 complaints related to employment or tax refund fraud. Taxpayers who have their refunds hijacked by fraudsters often have to wait for years to get everything straightened out and to get the refunds to which they are legally entitled. Many, sadly, are revictimized year after year. A substantial number become victims of other forms of identity theft.

Worst of all, victims are often the most vulnerable. The inspector general estimates that 76,000 very low income senior citizens were victims of tax fraud-identity theft in the year 2010 alone.

In 2016, the Lewiston, ME, Sun Journal published a story about Rick Zaccaro and Bonnie Washuk, a married couple who were the victims of tax fraud. They had filed their taxes in late January of 2015, and Rick, a retired financial analyst for the Postal Service, was checking the status of their return online in early February. That is when he learned they were the victims of identity theft. Someone had filed a tax return and claimed a tax refund using their names, dates of birth, and Social Security numbers. That fraudulent claim was paid by the IRS while their legitimate tax filing, with their appropriate W-2s, was stuck in limbo.

It took months of worrying, frozen bank accounts, and many calls to multiple government offices for this couple to straighten things out. When they finally received their overdue tax refund, they also received something called an identity protection personal identification number, better known as an IP PIN.

To provide relief to some victims of identity theft, the IRS began issuing IP PINs to eligible taxpayers in fiscal year 2011. An IP PIN is a six-digit number assigned to eligible taxpayers that allows tax returns and refunds to be processed without delay and helps prevent the misuse of an individual's Social Security number on fraudulent income tax returns.

Here is how it works. If a return is filed electronically with an individual's Social Security number and an incorrect or missing IP PIN, the IRS's system automatically rejects that tax return until it is submitted with the correct IP PIN or it is filed on paper. If the same conditions occur on a paper-filed return, the IRS will delay its processing and any refund that may be due while the Agency determines if the return actually belongs to the taxpayer.

In 2013, the IRS began a pilot program in which it offered IP PINs to all taxpayers—not just those who were victims of identity theft—who filed their Federal tax returns as residents of Florida, Georgia, or the District of Columbia. According to the IRS, these three locations were chosen because they have the highest per capita percentage of tax-related identity theft in the country. Taxpayers in these three jurisdictions may opt in to the IP PIN program if they want that extra layer of identity protection, even if they have not been victims of identity theft.

In preparation for last year's filing season, the IRS issued nearly 3.5 million IP PINs to taxpayers. That is a substantial increase from the 770,000 in 2013. According to the IRS, within just a month, it had rejected nearly 7,400 fraudulent tax returns that had been filed electronically. As of March 15, 2018, it had stopped nearly 1,500 paper-filed tax returns. This shows that this system works.

If a taxpayer has a special PIN number that has to appear on his or her or their tax return before the IRS will process the form electronically and issue the refund, it will stop a criminal, who would not have access to that special, individualized PIN number, from receiving someone else's tax refund.

The bipartisan Taxpayer Identity Protection Act of 2019 that the Senator from Alabama and I are introducing today would expand and make permanent the IRS's IP PIN pilot program to help combat identity theft-refund fraud across the Nation. Specifically, our bill would authorize the IRS to expand its pilot program nationally in phases over a 5-year period. Expanding the program would give all taxpayers, ultimately, the opportunity to further protect themselves from falling victim to tax refund fraud and identity theft while also saving taxpayers billions of dollars every year in tax refunds that are paid not to the taxpayers who deserve them but, rather, to criminals who are impersonating the taxpayers who deserve the refund.

Having an IP PIN has proven to protect against identity theft. I am pleased to report that the IRS supports expansion of this vital program over the next 5 years.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the adoption of the Taxpayer Identity Protection Act of 2019. This is a concrete action we can take to help protect taxpayers and to ensure that tax refunds go to the taxpayers who deserve these refunds, who are entitled to these refunds, and that they don't get misdirected to a criminal who is seeking to rip off a taxpayer.

By Mr. KAINÉ (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 247. A bill to designate additions to the Rough Mountain Wilderness and the Rich Hole Wilderness of the George Washington National Forest, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. KAINÉ. Mr. President, this bill authorizes additions to two existing wilderness areas within the George Washington National Forest in Bath County, Virginia. This text represents years of negotiation and compromise among Virginia stakeholders who rely in different ways on the GW Forest.

In many parts of America, Federal land management is controversial. Some may view these lands as repositories for timber, energy, or minerals. Others may enjoy using recreational trails through them. Others may believe that they should be left to nature and not disturbed. The truth, of course, is that all of these uses are important; the conflict lies in agreeing on which lands are best suited to which purposes.

In the lead-up to the latest multi-year GW Forest Management Plan, various forest users came together to see if they could find reasonable compromises that would avoid years of unproductive disagreement and litigation. This group, known as the George Washington National Forest Stakeholder Collaborative, succeeded. Through hard work and consensus, the Collaborative made joint recommendations to the U.S. Forest Service for forest management and protection. Preservation advocates consented to timber harvest and other active forest restoration and management in certain areas, while forest products interests consented to wilderness and light management in other areas. Following this fruitful collaboration, the Forest Service convened the Lower Cowpasture Restoration and Management Project, bringing together the Collaborative and other stakeholders to help develop management activities on this particular part of the Forest in Bath County. Again, this collaborative succeeded, with everyone getting some of what they want and giving some ground.

The Collaborative has now come together to support the wilderness additions in this bill, which designates 4,500

acres to be added to the Rich Hole Wilderness Area and 1,000 acres to be added to the Rough Mountain Wilderness Area. I am proud to partner on this with my colleague Senator MARK WARNER, and we are following in the path blazed by Senator John Warner and Representative Rick Boucher, who led the original Virginia Wilderness Act in 1984.

Taking care of our Nation's public lands is good for the economy and good for the environment. Land disputes may often be contentious, but this example proves they don't have to be. When everyone comes to the table and invests the necessary time, we can find common ground. I hope this will be a lesson for us in other tough policy challenges, and I encourage the Senate to support this bill.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 32—RECOGNIZING JANUARY 27, 2019, AS THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST REFUGEE AND MUSLIM BAN, AND URGING THE PRESIDENT TO DEMONSTRATE TRUE LEADERSHIP ON REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. SMITH, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. DURBIN, and Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 32

Whereas the world is in the midst of the worst global displacement crisis in history, with more than 25,400,000 refugees worldwide, according to estimates from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (referred to in this Resolution as "UNHCR");

Whereas UNHCR estimated that nearly 1,200,000 refugees were in need of resettlement to a third country in 2018, and this projection continues to grow in 2019;

Whereas the United States Refugee Admissions Program (referred to in this Resolution as "USRAP") is a life-saving solution critical to global humanitarian efforts, which—

- (1) strengthens global security;
- (2) leverages United States foreign policy goals;
- (3) supports regional host countries; and
- (4) serves individuals and families in need;

Whereas the United States has been a global leader in—

- (1) responding to displacement crises around the world; and
- (2) promoting the safety, health, and well-being of refugees and displaced persons;

Whereas refugees are the most vetted travelers to enter the United States and are subject to extensive screening checks, including in person interviews, biometric data checks, and multiple interagency checks;

Whereas the United States leverages resettlement to encourage other countries—

- (1) to keep their doors open to refugees;
- (2) to allow refugee children to attend school; and
- (3) to allow refugee adults to work;

Whereas refugees contribute to their communities by starting businesses, paying

taxes, sharing their cultural traditions, and being good neighbors;

Whereas refugees contribute more to society than they consume in State-funded services, including costs relating to schooling and health care;

Whereas, for more than 40 years the United States resettled up to 200,000 refugees per year, with an average ceiling of 95,000 refugees per year, and an average of 80,000 refugees per year actually being resettled in the United States;

Whereas the United States has abdicated its leadership by setting a record low refugee admissions goal in fiscal year 2019 of 30,000;

Whereas, on January 27, 2017, President Donald J. Trump issued Executive Order 13769, which placed a 90-day suspension on the admission into the United States of individuals from 7 Muslim-majority countries and suspended USRAP for 120 days; and

Whereas, since issuing that executive order, President Trump has taken further executive and administrative actions—

- (1) to restrict the admission into the United States of people from certain Muslim-majority countries; and
- (2) to dismantle USRAP, which has lowered the capacity of, and diminished the institutional memory and experience in, USRAP:

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) reaffirms our Nation's proud history of refugee resettlement;
- (2) recognizes January 27, 2019, as the 2nd anniversary of the executive order that suspended the admission of refugees and individuals from specified Muslim-majority countries;
- (3) reaffirms the strong bipartisan commitment of the United States to promote the safety, health, and well-being of refugees, including by facilitating the resettlement in the United States of refugees who cannot safely return to their homes or rebuild their lives in countries from which they fled to preserve their lives;
- (4) emphasizes the importance of USRAP as a critical tool for United States global leadership;
- (5) recognizes the profound consequences faced by refugees and their families who have been stranded, separated, and scarred by existing United States refugee policies, which have stranded many refugees who were in the middle of the refugee resettlement process and have left other refugees with little hope of anticipated entry into the United States; and
- (6) calls upon the United States Government—

(A) to resettle a robust number of refugees to meet its share of the global need during fiscal years 2019 and 2020, with an emphasis on rebuilding USRAP and returning to historic levels of refugee admissions;

(B) to operate USRAP in good faith in order to meet the stated objectives of the program and to restore historic levels of refugee arrivals;

(C) to uphold its international leadership role in responding to displacement crises with humanitarian assistance and protection of the most vulnerable populations;

(D) to improve consultation with Congress and adherence to the clear congressional intent of the Refugee Act of 1980; and

(E) to recommit to offering freedom from oppression and resettling the most vulnerable refugees regardless of their country of origin or religious beliefs.

Whereas Catholic schools in the United States are internationally acclaimed for their academic excellence and provide students with more than just an exceptional scholastic education;

Whereas Catholic schools instill a broad, values-added education emphasizing the life-long development of moral, intellectual, physical, and social values in young people in the United States;

Whereas Catholic schools serve the United States by providing a diverse student population, from all regions of the country and all socioeconomic backgrounds, a strong academic and moral foundation, and of that student population—

- (1) more than 38 percent of students are from racial and ethnic minority backgrounds; and
- (2) 19 percent of students are from non-Catholic families;

Whereas Catholic schools are an affordable option for parents, particularly in underserved urban areas;

Whereas Catholic schools produce students who are strongly dedicated to their faith, values, families, and communities by providing an intellectually stimulating environment rich in spiritual, character, and moral development;

Whereas Catholic schools are committed to community service, producing graduates who hold "helping others" as a core value;

SENATE RESOLUTION 33—SUPPORTING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Mr. TOOMEY (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. CASEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 33

Whereas Catholic schools in the United States are internationally acclaimed for their academic excellence and provide students with more than just an exceptional scholastic education;

Whereas Catholic schools instill a broad, values-added education emphasizing the life-long development of moral, intellectual, physical, and social values in young people in the United States;

Whereas Catholic schools serve the United States by providing a diverse student population, from all regions of the country and all socioeconomic backgrounds, a strong academic and moral foundation, and of that student population—

- (1) more than 38 percent of students are from racial and ethnic minority backgrounds; and
- (2) 19 percent of students are from non-Catholic families;

Whereas Catholic schools are an affordable option for parents, particularly in underserved urban areas;

Whereas Catholic schools produce students who are strongly dedicated to their faith, values, families, and communities by providing an intellectually stimulating environment rich in spiritual, character, and moral development;

Whereas Catholic schools are committed to community service, producing graduates who hold "helping others" as a core value;

Whereas the total Catholic school student enrollment for the 2018–2019 academic year is almost 1,800,000, with a student-teacher ratio of 12 to 1;

Whereas the Catholic high school graduation rate is 99 percent, with 87 percent of graduates attending 4-year colleges;

Whereas, in the 1972 pastoral message concerning Catholic education, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops stated: "Education is one of the most important ways by which the Church fulfills its commitment to the dignity of the person and building of community. Community is central to education ministry, both as a necessary condition and an ardently desired goal. The educational efforts of the Church, therefore, must be directed to forming persons-in-community; for the education of the individual Christian is important not only to his solitary destiny, but also the destinies of the many communities in which he lives.";

Whereas the week of January 27, 2019, to February 2, 2019, has been designated as National Catholic Schools Week by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and January 30, 2019, has been designated National Appreciation Day for Catholic Schools;

Whereas National Catholic Schools Week was first established in 1974 and has been celebrated annually for the past 45 years;

Whereas, while Catholic schools must work hard to maintain enrollment, the demand and enthusiasm for Catholic schools remains strong;

Whereas 30 percent of Catholic schools have waiting lists for admission, and new schools are opening across the United States; and

Whereas the theme for National Catholic Schools Week 2019 is Catholic Schools;