Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act may be cited as the "Child Support Fairness and Tax Refund Interception Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Enforcing child support orders remains a serious problem in the United States. There are approximately 12,000,000 active cases in which a child support order requires a noncustodial parent to contribute to the support of his or her child. Of the $13,700,000,000 owed in calendar year 1998 pursuant to such orders, $6,900,000,000, or 51 percent, has been collected. However, this data does not include reporting from many States, including California, New York, Florida, and Illinois. Similar shortfalls in past years have brought the combined total of child support owed to $47,400,000,000 by the end of fiscal year 1997.

(4) The Congress has periodically expanded eligibility for the IRS tax refund intercept program. Initially, the program was limited to intercepting Federal tax refunds owed to parents on public assistance. In 1984, Congress expanded the program to cover refunds owed to parents not on public assistance. Finally, the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 made the program permanent and expanded the program to cover refunds owed to parents of adult children who are disabled.

(5) The injustice to the custodial parent is the same regardless of whether the child is disabled, non-disabled, a minor, or an adult, so long as the child support obligation is provided for by a court or administrative order. It is common for parents to help their adult children finance a college education, a wedding, or a first home. Some parents cannot afford to do that because they are recovering, or a first home. Some parents cannot afford to do that because they are recovering, and in many cases, families have been paid the child support owed to them in a timely manner.

(6) This Act would address this injustice by expanding the program to cover parents of all adult children, regardless of whether the child is disabled.

(7) This Act does not create a cause of action for a custodial parent to seek additional child support. This Act merely helps the custodial parent to recover the child support they are owed for the support of their child. The IRS tax refund interception program is only one of the many tools that can be used to enforce child support orders.

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. L. CHAFEE (for himself, Mr. KOHL, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mrs. LINCOLN):

S. 2747. A bill to expand the Federal tax refund intercept program to cover children who are not minors; to the Committee on Finance.

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act may be cited as the "Child Support Fairness and Tax Refund Interception Act of 2000".

Mr. L. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I am pleased to be joined today by Senators KOHL, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mrs. LINCOLN in introducing the Child Support Fairness and Tax Refund Interception Act of 2000.

The Child Support Fairness and Tax Refund Interception Act of 2000 closes a loophole in current federal statute by expanding the eligibility of one of the most effective means of enforcing child support orders—that of intercepting the federal tax refund of parents who are delinquent in paying their court-ordered financial support for their children.

Under current law, eligibility for the federal tax refund offset program is limited to cases involving minors, parents on public assistance, or adult children who are disabled. Custodial parents of adult, non-disabled children are not assisted under the IRS tax refund intercept program, and in many cases, they must work multiple jobs in order to make ends meet. Some of these parents have gone into debt to put their college-age children through school.

The legislation we are introducing today will address this inequity by expanding the eligibility of the federal tax refund offset program to cover parents of all children, regardless of whether the child is disabled, or a minor. This legislation will not create a cause of action for a custodial parent to seek additional child support. It will merely assist the custodial parent in recovering debt that is owed for a level of child support that was determined by a court.

Improving our child support enforcement programs is an issue that should be of concern to us all as it remains a serious problem in the United States. According to the most recent Government statistics, there are approximately twelve million active cases in which a child support order requires a noncustodial parent to contribute to the support of his or her child. Of the $13.7 billion owed in calendar year 1998, only $6.9 billion, or 51 percent, has been collected. It is important to note that this data does not include reporting from many States, including California, New York, Florida, and Illinois. In 1998, only 29 percent of children owed child support had access to any funds for that support. Our public system received some form of payment, despite Federal and State efforts. Similar shortfalls in previous years bring the combined delinquency total to approximately $47 billion. We can fix this injustice in our Federal tax refund offset program by helping some of our most needy constituents receive the financial assistance they are owed.

While the administration has been somewhat successful in using tax refunds as a tool to collect child support payments, more needs to be done. The IRS tax refund interception program has only collected one-third of tardy child support payments. The Child Support Fairness and Tax Refund Interception Act of 2000 will remove the current barrier to fulfilling an individual's obligation to pay child support, while helping to provide for the future of our Nation's children. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation, and I ask unanimous consent that the legislation be printed in the RECORD.
of child support enforcement is a national crisis. Our public system collects only 23 percent of its caseload, and over $47 billion in overdue support is owed to our nation’s children. Clearly, we must do all we can to address this very serious problem.

I urge my colleagues to join with Senators Chafee, Graham, Lincoln, and myself in supporting this important legislation. It will expand one effective tool in the enforcement arsenal and help increase the resources available to families in need.

By Mr. MACK (for himself and Mr. Torricelli).

S. 2748. A bill to prohibit the rescheduling or forgiveness of any outstanding bilateral debt owed to the United States by the Government of the Russian Federation until the President certifies to the Congress that the Government of the Russian Federation has ceased all its operations at, removed all personnel from, and permanently closed the intelligence facility at Lourdes, Cuba.

THE RUSSIAN-AMERICAN TRUST AND COOPERATION ACT OF 2000

Mr. MACK. Mr. President, I rise today to offer a common sense piece of legislation that would prohibit the rescheduling or forgiveness of any outstanding bilateral debt owed to the United States by the Government of the Russian Federation until the President certifies to the Congress that the Government of the Russian Federation has ceased all its operations at, removed all personnel from, and permanently closed the intelligence facility at Lourdes, Cuba.

The Russian-American Trust and Cooperation Act of 2000

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

(1) The Congress makes the following findings:


(2) The Secretary of Defense has formally expressed concerns to the Congress regarding the espionage complex at Lourdes, Cuba, and its use as a base for intelligence activities directed against the United States.

(3) The Secretary of Defense, referring to a 1996 Defense Intelligence Agency assessment, has reported that the Russian Federation leases the Lourdes facility for an estimated $100,000,000 to $300,000,000 a year.

(4) It has been reported that the Lourdes facility is the largest such complex operated by the Russian Federation and its intelligence service outside the region of the former Soviet Union.

(5) The Lourdes facility is reported to cover a 28 square-mile area with over 1,500 Russian engineers, technicians, and military personnel working at the facility.

(6) Experts familiar with the Lourdes facility have reportedly confirmed that the base has multiple groups of tracking dishes and its own satellite system, some groups used to intercept telephone calls, faxes, and computer communications, in general, and with other groups used to cover targeted telephones and devices.

(7) News sources have reported that the predecessor regime to the Government of the Russian Federation had obtained sensitive information about United States military operations during Operation Desert Storm through the Lourdes facility.

(8) Academic studies assessing the threat from Russian espionage to the United States cite official United States sources affirming that the Lourdes facility is being used to collect personal information about United States citizens in the private and government sectors, and offers the means to engage in cyberwarfare against the United States.

(9) It has been reported that the operational significance of the Lourdes facility has grown dramatically since February 7, 1996, when then Russian President, Boris Yeltsin, issued an order to expand the Russian intelligence community increase its gathering of United States and other Western economic and trade secrets.

(10) It has been reported that the Government of the Russian Federation is estimated to have spent in excess of $3,000,000,000 in the operation and modernization of the Lourdes facility.

(11) Former United States Government officials have been quoted confirming reports about the Russian Federation’s expansion and upgrade of the Lourdes facility.

(12) It was reported in December 1999 that a high-ranking Russian military delegation headed by Deputy Chief of the General Staff Colonel-General Valentin Korob'nikov visited Cuba to discuss the continuing Russian operation of the Lourdes facility.

SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON BILATERAL DEBT RESCHEDULING AND FORGIVENESS FOR THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

(a) Prohibition.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the President—

(1) shall not reschedule or forgive any outstanding bilateral debt owed to the United States by the Government of the Russian Federation, and

(2) shall instruct the United States representative to the Paris Club of official creditors to use the voice and vote of the
United States to oppose rescheduling or forgiveness of any outstanding bilateral debt owed by the Government of the Russian Federation, until the President certifies to the Congress that the Government of the Russian Federation has ceased all its operations at, removed all personnel from, and permanently closed the intelligence facility at Lourdes, Cuba.

(b) WAIVER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may waive the application of subsection (a)(1) if, not less than 10 days before the waiver is to take effect, the President determines and certifies in writing to the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate that such waiver is necessary to the national interests of the United States.

(2) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.—If the President waives the application of subsection (a)(1) pursuant to paragraph (1), the President shall include in the written certification under paragraph (1) a detailed description of the facts that support the determination to waive the application of subsection (a)(1).

(3) SUBMISSION IN CLASSIFIED FORM.—If the President considers it appropriate, the written certification made under paragraph (1) or appropriate parts thereof, may be submitted in classified form.

(c) PERIODIC REPORTS.—The President shall, every 180 days after the transmission of the written certification under subsection (b)(1), prepare and transmit to the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report that contains a description of the extent to which the requirements of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (b)(1) are being met.

SEC. 4. REPORT ON THE CLOSING OF THE INTELLIGENCE FACILITY AT LOURDES, CUBA.

Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 120 days thereafter until the President makes a certification under section 3, the President shall submit to the Committee on International Relations and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report (with a classified annex detailing—

(1) the actions taken by the Government of the Russian Federation to terminate its presence and activities at the intelligence facility at Lourdes, Cuba; and

(2) the efforts by each appropriate Federal department or agency to verify the actions described in paragraph (1).

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1020

At the request of Mr. Grassley, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. Gregg) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1020, a bill to amend chapter 1 of title 9, United States Code, to provide for greater fairness in the arbitration process relating to motor vehicle franchise contracts.

S. 1668

At the request of Mr. Kerry, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. Smith) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1668, a bill to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to establish provisions with respect to religious accommodation in employment, and for other purposes.

S. 1726

At the request of Mr. McCain, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. Bingaman) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1726, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat for purposes of compensation purposes Indian tribal governments the same as State or local units of government or as nonprofit organizations.

S. 1810

At the request of Mrs. Murray, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. Feinstein) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1810, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify and improve veterans’ claims and appellate procedures.

S. 2018

At the request of Mr. Robb, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2018, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to revise the update factor used in making payments to PPS hospitals under the medicare program.

S. 2100

At the request of Mr. Edwards, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. Dodd) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2100, a bill to provide for fire sprinkler systems in public and private college and university housing and dormitories, including fraternity and sorority housing and dormitories.

S. 2300

At the request of Mr. Roth, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Warner) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2300, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on telephone and other communication services.

S. 2396

At the request of Mr. Bennett, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. Hatch) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2396, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into contracts with the Weber Basin Water Conservation District, Utah, to use Weber Basin Project facilities for the impounding, storage, and carriage of non-project water for domestic, municipal, industrial, and other beneficial purposes.

S. 2417

At the request of Mr. Crafo, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. Shelby) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2417, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to increase funding for State nonpoint source pollution control programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2420

At the request of Mr. Robb, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2420, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for the establishment of a program under which long-term care insurance is made available to Federal employees, members of the uniformed services, and civilian and military retirees, and for other purposes.

S. 2510

At the request of Mr. McCain, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. Burns) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2510, a bill to establish the Social Security Protection, Preservation, and Reform Commission.

S. 2677

At the request of Mrs. Murray, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2677, a bill to lift the trade embargo on Cuba, and for other purposes.

S. 2691

At the request of Mr. Cleland, the name of the Senator from Mary land (Ms. Mikulski) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2691, a bill to authorize the President to present a gold medal on behalf of Congress to former President Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalynn Carter in recognition of their service to the Nation.

S. 2935

At the request of Mr. Thompson, the names of the Senators from Georgia (Mr. Cox), the Senator from Maine (Ms. Snowe), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. McCain), and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. Craig) were added as cosponsors of S. 2645, a bill to provide for the application of certain measures to the People’s Republic of China in response to the illegal sale, transfer, or misuse of certain controlled goods, services, or technology, and for other purposes.

S. 2703

At the request of Mr. Akaka, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. Cleland) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2703, a bill to amend the provisions of title 39, United States Code, relating to the manner in which pay policies and schedules and fringe benefit programs for postmasters are established.

S. 2745

At the request of Mr. Ashcroft, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. Grams) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2745, a bill to provide for grants to assist value-added agricultural businesses.

S. 2766

At the request of Mr. Ashcroft, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. Grams) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2766, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for investment by farmers in value-added agricultural property.

S. RES. 254

At the request of Mr. Campbell, the names of the Senators from Alaska (Mr. Stevens), the Senator from Utah (Mr. Bennett), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. L. Chaffee), the Senator...