

The International Tax Simplification for American Competitiveness Act acknowledges and addresses a number of problems our tax laws create for American businesses facing increasing global competition. This bill represents an important step toward correcting complexities of the antideferral rules under subpart F, including their inappropriate application to active financing income of bona fide financial institutions and the current definition of investment in U.S. property, and excessive limitations on the use of foreign tax credits.

Mr. President, the U.S. business community has had significant input in the development of this bill. This proposed legislation now will be evaluated and studied, and I welcome suggestions for its further improvement. It is my intention, as our analysis progresses, that we include other important issues not currently addressed in the bill, such as the appropriate allocation of interest expenses for foreign tax credit purposes, particularly for highly leveraged entities such as securities firms.

I look forward to working with Senator PRESSLER on this important bill, and urge my colleagues on both sides to become cosponsors.●

● Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I am pleased to be a co-sponsor of the bipartisan "International Tax Simplification for American Competitiveness Act."

In 1997, Congress will take up tax reform. Discussions will range from replacing the current system to fixing what we have. Many Montanans ask me: How should we make taxes fairer for parents who are raising and educating their children, encourage our entrepreneurs to create and expand their businesses, and encourage all citizens to save?

Our international tax provisions also need reform. The bill we introduce today is a placeholder to keep international tax reform on the legislative radar screen.

As you can tell from the list of cosponsors, Mr. President, a number of Members have made contributions to the bill before us. Am I comfortable with every provision in the bill as written? No, I'm not. But I am comfortable every provision in the bill merits our consideration.

The Finance Committee will take up tax reform next year. We will consider simplification of the international tax provisions in that context. I hope that the bill we introduce today will establish the parameters from which the Finance Committee addresses the need to simplify our international tax provisions. We will hear from a number of witnesses ranging from the business community to the Department of Treasury and, no doubt, the language before us will undergo change.

We live in a global economy, Mr. President. Many businesses in Montana sell products directly or indirectly into that global economy. The international tax provisions should be simplified to make American companies competitive

in the global economy while fairly taxing their profits.

I look forward to working with the cosponsors of this bill and with the members of the Finance Committee and ultimately with all of my colleagues in restructuring and simplifying the Tax Code to benefit all of our citizens.●

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2087. A bill to direct the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating to provide rescue diver training under the Coast Guard helicopter rescue swimming training program; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

THE RESCUE DIVER TRAINING ACT OF 1996

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Rescue Diver Training Act of 1996. This bill would provide required Congressional authorization for the Coast Guard to expand its current use of Coast Guard divers to form a broader search and rescue mission application.

I want to acknowledge my distinguished colleague from Massachusetts, Congressman GERRY STUDDS, who is the author of the Coast Guard Rescue Swimmer Training Program which this legislation amends and with whom I have worked in developing this legislation which he will introduce in the House.

The Coast Guard has used its divers, trained at the Naval Diving School in Panama City, FL, only for salvage operations associated with Coast Guard aids to navigation and ice-breaking missions. This bill would authorize the Coast Guard to develop and implement a program to extend the use of these highly trained divers to search and rescue efforts.

Under current search and rescue procedures, the Coast Guard will dispatch a helicopter when a ship is reported to be in distress or a marine accident is reported. When it is anticipated that a diver may be needed to assist in a rescue, the Coast Guard uses contract personnel who usually are volunteer policemen, firemen, or local State marine policemen who have had specialized diver training. A call will be made to secure the services of a diver, and the helicopter will wait to depart until the diver reaches its station, or it will fly to another location to pick up the diver—all before it flies to the rescue scene. This often results in the helicopter being delayed—even if only a few minutes—in reaching the rescue scene. Sometimes no diver is available within a reasonable period of time, in which case the helicopter proceeds to the scene with no diver on board.

The program that this legislation will establish is designed both to speed this process in the realization that, in rescue situations, minutes and even seconds can mean life or death—especially in the waters off our northern coasts, and to provide a pool of divers within the Coast Guard. Where a qualified diver is available at a Coast Guard

station, a rescue helicopter can load that diver and immediately depart for the rescue situation without any delay.

A recent episode in the North Atlantic off Massachusetts amply illustrates how the program this legislation would establish could make a vital contribution. In the early hours of September 5, the fishing vessel *Heather Lynne II* carrying a crew of three capsized. The rescue helicopter was unable to bring a diver with it because none was available when the emergency call was received. After reaching the site of the capsized vessel, and determining that a diver was needed, the helicopter had to return to the mainland to pick up a diver. A considerable amount of time was lost in this process.

The Coast Guard is charged with maintaining constant vigilance—to protect lives and property on our waterways and to enforce our maritime, immigration, antidrug, and other laws. In my judgment, it has performed capably and honorably throughout its history, and Americans should take both considerable pride and comfort in that knowledge.

It is the Congress' responsibility to provide the Coast Guard with the resources it needs to perform its missions. This legislation will enhance the service's resources for its search and rescue mission, and increase its ability to save lives and property. All who use our waterways and oceans will be safer as a result.

Mr. President, this legislation should be approved by the Congress as soon as possible—I hope it will be this year.

I ask unanimous consent that the full text of the legislation be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2087

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 "Rescue Diver Training Act of 1996."

SEC. 2. RESCUE DIVER TRAINING FOR SELECTED COAST GUARD PERSONNEL.

The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may provide rescue diver training to selected Coast Guard personnel, under the helicopter rescue swimming program conducted under section 9 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1984 (14 U.S.C. 88 note).

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 45

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Oregon [Mr. WYDEN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 45, a bill to amend the Helium Act to require the Secretary of the Interior to sell Federal real and personal property held in connection with activities carried out under the Helium Act, and for other purposes.

S. 877

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. FAIRCLOTH] was added as a cosponsor of S. 877, a bill to amend section 353 of the Public Health Service Act to exempt physician office laboratories from the clinical laboratories requirements of that section.

S. 953

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from Idaho [Mr. CRAIG] was added as a cosponsor of S. 953, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of black revolutionary war patriots.

S. 1220

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Oregon [Mr. WYDEN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1220, a bill to provide that Members of Congress shall not be paid during Federal Government shutdowns.

S. 1675

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. KERRY] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1675, a bill to provide for the nationwide tracking of convicted sexual predators, and for other purposes.

S. 1963

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the names of the Senator from Idaho [Mr. CRAIG] and the Senator from Nebraska [Mr. EXON] were added as cosponsors of S. 1963, a bill to establish a demonstration project to study and provide coverage of routine patient care costs for Medicare beneficiaries with cancer who are enrolled in an approved clinical trial program.

S. 1978

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Alabama [Mr. HEFLIN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1978, a bill to establish an Emergency Commission To End the Trade Deficit.

S. 2034

At the request of Mr. BREAUX, the name of the Senator from North Dakota [Mr. DORGAN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 2034, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make certain changes to hospice care under the Medicare Program.

S. 2040

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Illinois [Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN] and the Senator from Pennsylvania [Mr. SPECTER] were added as cosponsors of S. 2040, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to provide a penalty for the use of a controlled substance with the intent to rape, and for other purposes.

S. 2053

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. HELMS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 2053, a bill to strengthen narcotics reporting requirements and to require the imposition of certain sanctions on countries that fail to take

effective action against the production of and trafficking in illicit narcotics and psychotropic drugs and other controlled substances, and for other purposes.

SENATE RESOLUTION 274

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Washington [Mrs. MURRAY], the Senator from North Dakota [Mr. DORGAN], the Senator from Connecticut [Mr. DODD], the Senator from Kentucky [Mr. FORD], the Senator from Montana [Mr. BURNS], and the Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. KENNEDY] were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 274, a resolution to express the sense of the Senate regarding the outstanding achievements of NetDay96.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 71—RELATIVE TO THE PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS WORLDWIDE

Mr. NICKLES (for himself, Mr. NUNN, Mr. COATS, Mr. ASHCROFT, and Mr. HELMS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 71

Whereas oppression and persecution of religious minorities around the world has emerged as one of the most compelling human rights issues of the day. In particular, the worldwide persecution and martyrdom of Christians persists at alarming levels. This is an affront to the international moral community and to all people of conscience.

Whereas in many places throughout the world, Christians are restricted in or forbidden from practicing their faith, victimized by a "religious apartheid" that subjects them to inhumane, humiliating treatment, and in certain cases are imprisoned, tortured, enslaved, or killed;

Whereas severe persecution of Christians is also occurring in such countries as Sudan, Cuba, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, China, Pakistan, North Korea, Egypt, Laos, Vietnam, and certain countries in the former Soviet Union, to name merely a few;

Whereas religious liberty is a universal right explicitly recognized in numerous international agreements, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

Whereas Pope John Paul II recently sounded a call against regimes that "practice discrimination against Jews, Christians, and other religious groups, going even so far as to refuse them the right to meet in private for prayer," declaring that "this is an intolerable and unjustifiable violation not only of all the norms of current international law, but of the most fundamental human freedom, that of practicing one's faith openly," stating that this is for human beings "their reason for living";

Whereas the National Association of Evangelicals in January 1996 issued a "Statement of Conscience and Call to Action," subsequently commended or endorsed by the Southern Baptist Convention, the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church, and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. They pledged to end their "silence in the face of the suffering of all those persecuted for their religious faith" and "to do what is in our power to the end that the government of the United States

will take appropriate action to combat the intolerable religious persecution now victimizing fellow believers and those of other faiths";

Whereas the World Evangelical Fellowship has declared September 29, 1996, and each annual last Sunday in September, as an international day of prayer on behalf of persecuted Christians. That day will be observed by numerous churches and human rights groups around the world;

Whereas the United States of America since its founding has been a harbor of refuge and freedom to worship for believers from John Winthrop to Roger Williams to William Penn, and a haven for the oppressed. To this day, the United States continues to guarantee freedom of worship in this country for people of all faiths;

Whereas as a part of its commitment to human rights around the world, in the past the United States has used its international leadership to vigorously take up the cause of other persecuted religious minorities. Unfortunately, the United States has in many instances failed to raise forcefully the issue of anti-Christian persecution at international conventions and in bilateral relations with offering countries; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring—

(1) unequivocally condemns the egregious human rights abuses and denials of religious liberty to Christians around the world, and calls upon the responsible regimes to cease such abuses; and

(2) strongly recommends that the President expand and invigorate the United States' international advocacy on behalf of persecuted Christians, and initiate a thorough examination of all United States' policies that affect persecuted Christians; and

(3) encourages the President to proceed forward as expeditiously as possible in appointing a White House Special Advisor on religious persecution; and

(4) recognizes and applauds a day of prayer on Sunday, September 29, 1996, recognizing the plight of persecuted Christians worldwide.

SENATE RESOLUTION 293—SALUTING THE SERVICE OF HOWARD O. GREENE, JR. TO THE U.S. SENATE

Mr. LOTT (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. BYRD, Mr. WARNER, Mr. SIMPSON, Mrs. KASSEBAUM, Mr. FORD, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. COVERDELL, and Mr. FRIST) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 293

Whereas Howard O. Green, Jr. has served the United States Senate since January 1968.

Whereas Mr. Greene has during his Senate career served in the capacities of Doorkeeper, Republican Cloakroom Assistant, Assistant Secretary for the Minority, Secretary for the Minority, Secretary for the Majority, culminating in his election as Senate Sergeant-at-Arms during the 104th Congress.

Whereas throughout his Senate career Mr. Greene has been a reliable source of advice and counsel to Senators and Senate staff alike.

Whereas Mr. Greene's institutional knowledge and legislative skills are well known and respected.

Whereas Mr. Greene's more than 28 years of service have been characterized by a deep and abiding respect for the institution and