

deposit system and reduce paperwork for taxpayers, financial institutions, and the Internal Revenue Service itself. The Senate report accompanying the bill recommended that the implementation of this mandate not create hardships for small businesses, and that no small business should be required to purchase computers or gain access to any electronic equipment other than a touch-tone telephone. The report also urged Treasury to take into account the specific needs of small employers, including possible exemption for the very smallest businesses from the electronic deposit system.

We do not believe the Treasury Department has accomplished this goal. While a timetable for compliance has been established, there is little evidence that the concerns of the small business community have been alleviated as July 1, 1997, the deadline for implementation, draws near. Business owners who have used the coupon system for years to diligently pay their taxes on time do not understand why they are being required to convert to an electronic funds transfer system. Many small business owners I have spoken with in Montana fear IRS access to their bank accounts, particularly in light of recent reported incidences of IRS employee browsing through taxpayer records without a valid reason. Other small business owners are concerned, and not unreasonably, that banks may begin charging fees for these transactions, adding to their costs of doing business. Finally, many small businesses are discovering that their current banks do not even participate fully in the electronic transfer system, forcing them to find a new bank through which to send in their deposit payments.

Mr. President, I agree with my colleagues that small businesses have not been given enough time or information to make an orderly transition to the new electronic funds transfer system. I also agree that they should not be required to pay a fee in order to pay their taxes. The bill we are introducing today will exempt businesses who annually deposit under \$5 million in payroll taxes from the electronic payment requirement permanently, and phase it in for the rest at a much more manageable rate.

I believe this bill will preserve the right of small business owners to pay their taxes in a manner which best suits their business needs. I commend Senators NICKELS and BREAUX for the work they have done on this bill, and encourage our other colleagues to join in our effort.

By Mr. REID:

S. 571. A bill to establish a uniform poll closing time throughout the continental United States for Presidential general elections; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

THE UNIFORM POLL CLOSING ACT OF 1997

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today I am introducing legislation which will set a

uniform poll closing time for the continental United States. Election officials and political scientists for years have believed that early announcements, based on exit polls, discourage thousands of people from voting and affect the outcome of close races for other Federal, State and local offices. Less than 50 percent of eligible voters actually voted last year. As public officials, we have a responsibility to do everything we can to encourage voting, not dissuade it. Uniform poll closing times is a step in this direction.

We are all aware that the controversy over early network projections is not a new one. Senator Barry Goldwater introduced a bill after the 1960 election prohibiting radio broadcast of any Presidential election returns until after midnight on election day. Network predictions 4 years later of Goldwater's landslide loss, and of Richard Nixon's landslide victory in 1972, spawned several Senate bills to muzzle radio and television. But none were enacted.

In 1980, when new technology made it unnecessary for networks to wait for actual returns, the furor over early projections was brought to its highest pitch. In that year, voters in the West were told at 5 p.m., hours before their polls closed, who the next President of the United States would be. The three major networks trumpeted Ronald Reagan's victory long before the polls had closed in their States. After the election, our colleagues, Representatives Tim Wirth and Al Swift began a congressional search for a way to prevent early calls of elections. Numerous ideas were discussed as solutions to the problem of early projections based on exit polls, but there was no consensus. In addition to uniform poll closing times, shifting election day to Sunday, spreading voting over 2 days, making election day a national holiday and forbidding the networks from issuing predictions were proposed. Of course the best solution would be voluntary restraint on the part of the networks, but that has proven to be a failure.

My legislation simply states that each polling place in the continental United States must close, with respect to a Presidential general election, at 10 p.m. eastern standard time. This means the polls will close at 7 p.m. Pacific time, 8 p.m. mountain time and 9 p.m. central time. I do not believe these times are unreasonable. It is my hope that this legislation will revive the debate over the use of exit polls. I welcome my colleagues to work with me for a solution.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 11

At the request of Mr. SARBANES, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 11, a bill to reform the Federal election campaign laws applicable to Congress.

S. 39

At the request of Mr. STEVENS, the names of the Senator from Rhode Is-

land [Mr. CHAFEE] and the Senator from Arkansas [Mr. BUMPERS] were added as cosponsors of S. 39, a bill to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to support the International Dolphin Conservation Program in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, and for other purposes.

S. 224

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. FAIRCLOTH] was added as a cosponsor of S. 224, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit covered beneficiaries under the military health care system who are also entitled to Medicare to enroll in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, and for other purposes.

S. 238

At the request of Mr. GRAMS, the name of the Senator from Hawaii [Mr. INOUE] was added as a cosponsor of S. 238, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure Medicare reimbursement for certain ambulance services, and to improve the efficiency of the emergency medical system, and for other purposes.

S. 248

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Nevada [Mr. BRYAN], the Senator from Washington [Mrs. MURRAY], the Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. KENNEDY], and the Senator from Hawaii [Mr. INOUE] were added as cosponsors of S. 248, a bill to establish a Commission on Structural Alternatives for the Federal Courts of Appeals.

S. 263

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Wyoming [Mr. THOMAS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 263, a bill to prohibit the import, export, sale, purchase, possession, transportation, acquisition, and receipt of bear viscera or products that contain or claim to contain bear viscera, and for other purposes.

S. 311

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Hawaii [Mr. INOUE] was added as a cosponsor of S. 311, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve preventive benefits under the Medicare Program.

S. 342

At the request of Mr. THOMAS, the name of the Senator from Nebraska [Mr. HAGEL] was added as a cosponsor of S. 342, a bill to extend certain privileges, exemptions, and immunities to Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices.

S. 356

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Louisiana [Mr. BREAUX] was added as a cosponsor of S. 356, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, the title XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to assure access to emergency medical services under group

health plans, health insurance coverage, and the Medicare and Medicaid Programs.

S. 369

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. KERRY] was added as a cosponsor of S. 369, a bill to amend section 1128B of the Social Security Act to repeal the criminal penalty for fraudulent disposition of assets in order to obtain Medicaid benefits added by section 217 of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996.

S. 370

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico [Mr. BINGAMAN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 370, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for increased Medicare reimbursement for nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists to increase the delivery of health services in health professional shortage areas, and for other purposes.

S. 371

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico [Mr. BINGAMAN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 371, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for increased Medicare reimbursement for physician assistants, to increase the delivery of health services in health professional shortage areas, and for other purposes.

S. 375

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the names of the Senator from Florida [Mr. MACK], the Senator from Arkansas [Mr. HUTCHINSON], the Senator from Delaware [Mr. BIDEN], and the Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. KERRY] were added as cosponsors of S. 375, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to restore the link between the maximum amount of earnings by blind individuals permitted without demonstrating ability to engage in substantial gainful activity and the exempt amount permitted in determining excess earnings under the earnings test.

S. 381

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas [Mr. BUMPERS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 381, 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. 389

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. INHOFE] and the Senator from Wyoming [Mr. THOMAS] were added as cosponsors of S. 389, a bill to improve congressional deliberation on proposed Federal private sector mandates, and for other purposes.

S. 474

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from Connecticut [Mr. LIEBERMAN] was added as a cosponsor

of S. 474, a bill to amend sections 1081 and 1084 of title 18, United States Code.

S. 502

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas [Mr. HUTCHINSON] was added as a cosponsor of S. 502, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide posteligibility treatment of certain payments received under a Department of Veterans Affairs pension or compensation program.

S. 503

At the request of Mr. NICKLES, the name of the Senator from Arkansas [Mr. HUTCHINSON], the Senator from New Hampshire [Mr. SMITH], and the Senator from Alabama [Mr. SHELBY] were added as cosponsors of S. 503, a bill to prevent the transmission of the human immunodeficiency virus, commonly known as HIV, and for other purposes.

S. 528

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the names of the Senator from Illinois [Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN], the Senator from Georgia [Mr. CLELAND], the Senator from Virginia [Mr. WARNER], the Senator from Maine [Ms. COLLINS], and the Senator from New Jersey [Mr. TORRICELLI] were added as cosponsors of S. 528, a bill to require the display of the POW/MIA flag on various occasions and in various locations.

S. 535

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Maine [Ms. SNOWE] was added as a cosponsor of S. 535, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment of a program for research and training with respect to Parkinson's disease.

S. 536

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Vermont [Mr. LEAHY] was added as a cosponsor of S. 536, a bill to amend the National Narcotics Leadership Act of 1988 to establish a program to support and encourage local communities that first demonstrate a comprehensive, long-term commitment to reduce substance abuse among youth, and for other purposes.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 9

At the request of Mr. KYL, the names of the Senator from Texas [Mr. GRAMM] and the Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL] were added as cosponsors of Senate Joint Resolution 9, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to require two-thirds majorities for increasing taxes.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 18

At the request of Mr. HOLLINGS, the name of the Senator from Georgia [Mr. CLELAND] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Joint Resolution 18, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 25

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi

[Mr. LOTT] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Joint Resolution 25, a joint resolution disapproving the rule of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration relating to occupational exposure to methylene chloride.

SENATE RESOLUTION 58

At the request of Mr. ROTH, the name of the Senator from Nebraska [Mr. HAGEL] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 58, a resolution to state the sense of the Senate that the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security Between the United States of America and Japan is essential for furthering the security interests of the United States, Japan, and the countries of the Asia-Pacific region, and that the people of Okinawa deserve recognition for their contributions toward ensuring the treaty's implementation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 69

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the names of the Senator from Vermont [Mr. JEFFORDS], and the Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. KENNEDY] were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 69, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the March 30, 1997, terrorist grenade attack in Cambodia.

SENATE RESOLUTION 71—RELATIVE TO THE CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. BRYAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. Res. 71

Resolved, That (a) an individual with a disability (as defined in section 3 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102)) who has or is granted the privilege of the Senate floor may bring those supporting services (including service dogs, wheelchairs, and interpreters) on the Senate floor the employing or supervising office determines are necessary to assist the disabled individual in discharging the official duties of his or her position.

(b) The employing or supervising office of a disabled individual shall administer the provisions of this resolution.

Mr. WYDEN, Mr. President, the resolution that I submit today would change the Senate rules that deny floor access to those individuals who are visually impaired and need to use guide dogs to carry out their official duties.

By denying floor access to Ms. Shea and her guide dog, the Senate, in my view, is violating the Congressional Accountability Act, which requires that Congress abide by the requirements and intent of the Americans With Disabilities Act. A guide dog is a person's vision. A guide dog is a working dog, not a pet. This guide dog is with Ms. Shea all the time. He is with her in meetings in my office. He goes with her to energy committee hearings and has even gone with her to nuclear weapons facilities.

Mr. President and colleagues, I had hoped that there would be no need to