Representatives announcing that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1469) making emergency supplemental appropriations for recovery from natural disasters; and for overseas peacekeeping efforts, including those in Bosnia, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, and agrees to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints Mr. LIVINGSTON, Mr. MCDADE, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. REGULA, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. PORTER, Mr. ROGERS, Mr. SKEEN, Mr. WOLF, Mr. KOLBE, Mr. PACKARD, Mr. CALLAHAN, Mr. WALSH, Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina, Mr. OBEY, Mr. YATES, Mr. STOKES, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. SABO, Mr. FAZIO, Mr. HOYER, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Ms. KAPTUR, and Ms. PELOSI, as the managers of the conference on the part of the House.

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of 22 U.S.C. 276h, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group: Mr. GILMAN, Vice Chairman, Mr. DREIER, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. FILNER, Mr. UNDERWOOD, and Mr. REYES.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. BREAUX):

S. 757. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Savings Act of 1974 to promote retirement income savings through the establishment of an outreach program in the Department of Labor and periodic National Summits on Retirement Savings; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. LEVIN:

S. 758. A bill to make certain technical corrections to the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. COVERDELL:

S. 759. A bill to provide for an annual report to Congress concerning diplomatic immunity; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. SNOWE:

S. 760. A bill to ensure the continuation of gender-integrated training in the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. HARKIN):

S. 761. A bill to amend the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to establish certain additional requirements relating to electronic and information technology accessibility guidelines for individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Ms. SNOWE:

S. 762. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the investigation of complaints of sexual harassment and other sexual offenses in the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

STATEMENTS OF INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. BREAUX):

S. 757. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Savings Act of 1974 to promote retirement income savings through the establishment of an outreach program in the Department of Labor and periodic national summits on retirement savings; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

THE SAVINGS ARE VITAL TO EVERYONE'S RETIREMENT ACT OF 1997

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today I am pleased to introduce legislation to address a problem of critical importance to this country: The dismal level of individual retirement savings. This measure would encourage retirement savings by initiating an education project and creating a national summit on retirement savings.

Before I go any further let me read you some statistics:

Our national net savings fell from 7.1 to 1.8 percent from the 1970's to the 1990's. On an individual level, this means that individuals may not be able to retire when they desire with the lifestyle that they desire.

In a 1994 survey by the Employee Benefits Research Institute [EBRI]: 14 percent of workers who were saving for their retirement did not know much they had saved, and 13 percent saved less than $1,000.

In another survey by Merrill Lynch of workers in their forties and early fifties, savings levels had dropped by 6 percent from 1988 to 1994.

According to the 1996 Retirement Confidence Survey released earlier this year by the EBRI: Only one-third of American workers have calculated how much money they will need to have saved by retirement in order to live comfortably; of the workers that have tried to determine how much money they should be saving, only one-third felt very confident that they had determined an accurate figure; when asked how much they calculated that they would need to save, 42 percent could not give an amount; and less than 20 percent had a specific number with which to work.

So, the problem is twofold: There is a lack of adequate retirement savings, and Americans workers do not understand the importance of determining how much money they should be saving in order to retire comfortably. The Special Committee on Aging, which I chair, held its first hearing on meeting the challenges of the retiring baby boom generation. At that hearing, witness after witness stressed the need to start a national public education campaign. This downward trend in savings couldn't be happending at a worse time, given the retirement of the first wave of baby boomers is in just over 10 years. When baby boomers retire we will be unable to sustain, as presently structured, the programs on which the elderly rely for their health and income security. Educating the public about the necessity to save for their retirement is vital. That is why I am introducing the Savings Are Vital to Everyone's Retirement, or SAVER, Act of 1997.

The SAVER Act would direct the Department of Labor to maintain an ongoing retirement savings education program. This program would include public service announcements, public meetings, the creation and dissemination of educational materials, and establish a site on the Internet. This project will give the American people the information they need, in terms they can understand, to develop retirement savings goals and a plan to achieve those goals. The information will include the tools necessary for individuals to cacluate how much an individual will need to save. Just a important, this educational effort will also focus on how employers can establish different retirement savings arrangements for their employees.

My legislation will also convene a national summit on retirement savings. The summit will bring together in one forum experts in the field of employee benefits and retirement savings, leaders of Government, and interested parties from the private sector and the general public. By bringing these delegates together we hope to advance the public's knowledge and understanding of the need to put money away for retirement, urge American workers to set aside adequate funds, and identify the impediments for small employers in setting up retirement savings arrangements for their employees.

I want to commend Congressmen HARRIS FAWELL and DONALD PAYNE, chairman and ranking member of the Subcommittee on Employee-Employer Relations of the Education and Workforce Committee, for their leadership. The House legislation, H.R. 1377, has bipartisan support with over 30 cosponsors across the political spectrum. In addition the bill is endorsed by the several organizations including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the American Association of Retired Persons.

Today's workers need to have confidence and feel good about their retirement and quality of life. One of the most important things Government can do is encourage individuals to acquire the knowledge that will help them achieve a secure retirement. The SAVER Act is by no means a solution to the problem of inadequate retirement savings, but it is a critical first step to facing the future demographic tidalwave.

By Mr. LEVIN:

S. 758. A bill to make certain technical corrections to the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

THE LOBBYING DISCLOSURE TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1997

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I introduce the Lobbying Disclosure Technical Amendments Act of 1997. Last

year, Congressmen CHARLES CANADY and BARNEY FRANK sponsored a similar piece of legislation and moved it through the House of Representatives. Unfortunately, a last minute dispute over one of the provisions precluded the Senate from passing the bill and sending it to the President for signature. The bill I am introducing today contains all but one of the key elements of the bill passed by the House last year; the provision that was problematic to some Members of the Senate has been omitted. I hope that the Senate will act expeditiously to pass this revised bill, so that we can clear up the technical issues identified by our colleagues on the House side in the last Congress.

Mr. President, just 2 years ago, Congress enacted the Lobbying Disclosure Act [LDA], the first substantive reform in the laws governing lobbying disclosure in 50 years. The LDA was designed to overhaul our lobbying disclosure statutes and plug the glaring loopholes in those laws. Lobbying of congressional staff is no longer exempt; lobbying of executive branch officials is no longer exempt; lobbying on nonlegislative issues is no longer exempt; and the much-abused primary purpose test has been eliminated. For the first time ever, all paid, professional lobbyists are required to disclose who is paying them how much to lobby Congress and the executive branch on what issues.

At the same time, the 1995 Lobbying Disclosure Act made the lobbying disclosure laws more understandable and easier to comply with by providing clear, sensible disclosure rules; establishing sensible de minimis requirements; eliminating duplicative and overlapping disclosure requirements; replacing quarterly reports with semiannual reports; authorizing the development of computer-filing systems; requiring a single registration by each organization whose employees lobby instead of separate registrations by each employee-lobbyist; requiring good-faith estimates of total, bottomline lobbying expenditures; and allowing entities that are already required to account for lobbying expenditures under the Internal Revenue Code to use data collected for the IRS for disclosure purposes as well. Detailed guidance provided by the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives have also helped provide clear lines as to who is required to register and what must be disclosed. I would like to commend the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives for the tremendous job that they have done in developing guidance, communicating with the public, and handling huge quantities of new information, with almost no lead time to prepare.

There is already substantial evidence that this reform is working. Preliminary reports indicate that the number of organizations and individuals registered under the new law in the first year was almost triple the number of organizations and individuals registered a year earlier, under the old law. Reporting of lobbying expenditures appears to have increased to an even greater degree and may now be as much as a billion dollars a year. The new lobbying disclosure forms not only contain more accurate information than the old forms, they also convey it in a manner that is far more readable and easier to understand. As a result, the public is getting a far more accurate picture than ever before of what issues are being lobbied, who is lobbying them, and how much is being spent.

I remain disappointed that the Lobbying Disclosure Act does not cover paid efforts by professional lobbyists to stimulate grassroots lobbying—so-called astroturf lobbying—and I would like to see faster progress in the development of computer filing systems and automated data bases to make filing easier and lobbying information more accessible. But already, in just 1 year, we have made huge progress in shining the light of public disclosure on the lobbying industry.

The legislation now before us would make minor adjustments to the LDA, to ensure that the law continues to operate as intended. In particular, the bill would:

Clarify the definition of a ''covered executive branch official'' under the LDA;

Clarify that any communication compelled by a federal contract, grant, loan, permit or license is not considered to be a lobbying contact;

Clarify that the official representatives of international groups such as NATO and the United Nations are public officials who are not required to register as lobbyists;

Clarify how estimates of lobbying income and expenditures may be made on the basis of the tax reporting system;

Clarify that organizations lobbying on behalf of foreign commercial entities should register under the Lobbying Disclosure Act, even if they engage in only de minimis lobbying; and

Make a conforming change to the terminology of the Foreign Agents Registration Act which was inadvertently omitted in the LDA.

Mr. President, the most significant provision of this bill addresses the coordination of IRS and LDA reporting requirements for companies and organizations that are required to report to the IRS in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code [IRC]. The IRC's definition of ''lobbying'' is different that the one contained in the LDA.

The IRC's definition of lobbying encompasses the local, State and Federal levels. The LDA's definition is limited to the Federal level.

The IRC's definition covers lobbying only on legislative issues. The LDA's definition includes non-legislative lobbying as well.

Because Congress did not want to require entities that lobby to keep two sets of books on their lobbying activities, the Lobbying Disclosure Act permits entities that are subject to IRS lobbying requirements to use the IRS definitions in lieu of the LDA definitions in regard to several LDA reporting requirements: the dollar amounts spent on lobbying activities, whether there has been a contact that triggers reporting, and the 20-percent test for determining who is a lobbyist. As for the requirement to report who was lobbied and the issues that were the subject of the lobbying, the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House have interpreted the Lobbying Disclosure Act to require that reporting be done in accordance with the LDA definition of lobbying.

The LDA provisions authorizing entities to use, for LDA purposes, the same information they submit to the IRS make sense, as far as they apply to the reporting of dollar amounts. However, the application of these provisions to other aspects of lobbying leads to confusing results—most notably in connection with the triggering contacts and calculating whether an individual has crossed the 20-percent line and therefore is required to register as a lobbyist. When registrants are allowed to use IRS definitions in these situations, they may be required to list their State and local government lobbyists—since the IRS definition includes State and local lobbying—but not all of their Federal Government lobbyists, since the IRS definition excludes lobbying Congress on nonlegislative matters. In other words, we get both too much information and too little. The intent of the Lobbying Disclosure Act is to provide a full picture of lobbying on the Federal level without being overly burdensome. That means we don't need to know about State and local lobbyists, but we do need to know about lobbying of Congress on legislative and nonlegislative matters.

This bill would continue to allow registrants subject to the IRS lobbying requirements to apply the IRS definition of lobbying activities to the requirement under the LDA for reporting the amount of money spent on lobbying activities. At the same time, it would address the problem caused by applying IRS definitions for other purposes. In particular, the bill would:

First, require the application of the LDA definition with respect to legislative branch lobbying for the determination of contacts, the application of the 20 percent test, and the reporting of who was lobbied and on what issues.

Second, allow such registrants to use the IRS definition with respect to executive branch lobbying for these same reporting requirements. This approach would produce more useful information, while reducing the problem of tracking lobbying to two different definitions by allowing lobbyists to follow IRS definitions in regard to executive branch lobbying.

Mr. President, when we passed the Lobbying Disclosure Act 2 years ago, we had a clear goal in mind: We wanted

to get a full overview of Federal level lobbying. The bill I am introducing today is designed to ensure that the act achieves that goal in the most effective manner without imposing an undue burden on the registrants. The Lobbying Disclosure Act has already proved its worth. This technical amendments bill will, through a few commonsense corrections, make the LDA even more useful.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill appear in the RECORD.

S. 758

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND REFERENCE.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Lobbying Disclosure Technical Amendments Act of 1997''.

(b) REFERENCE.Whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995.

SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF COVERED EXECUTIVE BRANCH OFFICIAL.

Section 3(3)(F) (2 U.S.C. 1602(3)(F)) is amended by striking ''7511(b)(2)'' and inserting ''7511(b)(2)(B)''.

SEC. 3. CLARIFICATION OF EXCEPTION TO LOBBYING CONTACT.

(a) CERTAIN COMMUNICATIONS.—Section 3(8)(B)(ix) (2 U.S.C. 1602(8)(B)(ix)) is amended by inserting before the semicolon the following:'', including any communication compelled by a Federal contract grant, loan, permit, or license''.

(b) DEFINITION OF ''PUBLIC OFFICIAL''.—Section 3(15)(F) (2 U.S.C. 1602(15)(F)) is amended by inserting '', or a group of governments acting together as an international organization'' before the period.

SEC. 4. ESTIMATES BASED ON TAX REPORTING SYSTEM.

(a) SECTION 15(a).—Section 15(a) (2 U.S.C. 1610(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''A registrant'' and inserting ''A person, other than a lobbying firm,''; and

(2) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

''(2) for all other purposes consider as lobbying contacts and lobbying activities only—

''(A) lobbying contacts with covered legislative branch officials (as defined in section 3(4)) and lobbying activities in support of such contacts; and

''(B) lobbying of Federal executive branch officials to the extent that such activities are influencing legislation as defined in section 4911(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.''.

(b) SECTION 15(b).—Section 15(b) (2 U.S.C. 1610(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''A registrant that is subject to'' and inserting ''A person, other than a lobbying firm, who is required to account and does account for lobbying expenditures pursuant to''; and

(2) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

''(2) for all other purposes consider as lobbying contacts and lobbying activities only—

''(A) lobbying contacts with covered legislative branch officials (as defined in section 3(4)) and lobbying activities in support of such contacts; and

''(B) lobbying of Federal executive branch officials to the extent that amounts paid or costs incurred in connection with such activities are not deductible pursuant to section 162(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.''.

(c) SECTION 5(c).—Section 5(c) (2 U.S.C. 1604(c)) is amended by striking paragraph (3).

SEC. 5. EXEMPTION BASED ON REGISTRATION UNDER LOBBYING ACT.

Section 3(h) of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 (22 U.S.C. 613(h)) is amended by striking ''is required to register and does register'' and inserting ''has engaged in lobbying activities and has registered''.

By Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. HARKIN):

S. 761. A bill to amend the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to establish certain additional requirements relating to electronic and information technology accessibility guidelines for individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

THE FEDERAL ELECTRONIC AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DISABILITY COMPLIANCE ACT OF 1997

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I introduce the Federal Electronic and Information Technology Disability Compliance Act of 1997. In an effort to make it easier for persons with disabilities to work, this legislation will allow the Federal Government to take the lead in providing Federal employees who have disabilities with critical access to technological tools in the workplace.

The Federal Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility Compliance Act of 1997 strengthens Federal requirements that electronic tools and information technology purchased by Federal agencies be made accessible to their employees. Additionally, it would require States that receive Federal resources toward disability programs to meet accessibility guidelines when they purchase technology. Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 requires such compliance, but currently there is no enforcement mechanism to assure that this is done. The House of Representatives today passed similar legislation introduced by Representative ANNA ESHOO.

Barriers to information and technology must be broken down. By giving Federal employees with disabilities the opportunity to utilize technological advancements, we provide them hope and encourage self-sufficiency.

Additionally, I believe these new efforts will encourage the private sector to adopt similar procedures. Let the Federal Government provide a good example to the private sector in its efforts.

Concrete examples of technological advancements that have aided persons with disabilities include: Telephones and fax machines with voice features for the visually impaired; voice mail that is converted for the deaf or hearing impaired; and CD–ROM or network-based information systems that can be equipped with audio descriptions of visual elements.

Nationally, there are 49 million Americans who have disabilities. It is critical, Mr. President, that given the rapid introduction of new technologies, persons with disabilities not be allowed to fall behind. The more we can do to promote their equality, independence, and dignity, the better.

I want to commend Mr. William Paul of United Technologies Corp., in my state of Connecticut, for first bringing this matter to my attention. Mr. Paul has identified a critical need among members of our society. His civic-minded actions deserve to be commended not only by people with disabilities, but by all Americans.

Mr. President, I believe this a modest measure, that will improve the lives of the millions of Americans who have disabilities across this country and benefit our society as a whole. I hope to have my colleagues support.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 61

At the request of Mr. LOTT, the name of the Senator from Illinois [Mr. DURBIN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 61, a bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to extend eligibility for veterans' burial benefits, funeral benefits, and related benefits for veterans of certain service in the United States merchant marine during World War II.

S. 75

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from Utah [Mr. BENNETT] was added as a cosponsor of S. 75, a bill to repeal the Federal estate and gift taxes and the tax on generation-skipping transfers.

S. 202

At the request of Mr. LOTT, the name of the Senator from Montana [Mr. BURNS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 202, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the earnings test for individuals who have attained retirement age.

S. 263

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania [Mr. SPECTER] 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. 537

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Iowa [Mr. GRASSLEY] was added as a cosponsor of S. 537, a bill to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend the mammography quality standards program.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 24

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from South Carolina [Mr. HOLLINGS] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Joint Resolution 24, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to equal rights for women and men.

SENATE RESOLUTION 85

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