

House on the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 1059) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2000 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of the Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes: As additional conferees from the Committee on House Administration, for consideration of section 1303 of the Senate bill and modifications committed to conference: Mr. THOMAS, Mr. BOEHNER, and Mr. HOYER.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read twice and placed on the calendar:

H. R. 2466. An act making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ROTH, from the Committee on Finance, without amendment:

S. 1386. An original bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to extend the authorization for trade adjustment assistance.

S. 1387. An original bill to extend certain trade preferences to sub-Saharan African countries.

S. 1388. An original bill to extend the Generalized System of Preferences.

S. 1389. An original bill to provide additional trade benefits to certain beneficiary countries in the Caribbean.

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. GREGG (for himself, Mr. KERREY, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. ROBB, and Mr. THOMAS):

S. 1383. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide for individual savings accounts funded by employee and employer social security payroll deductions, to extend the solvency of the old-age, survivors, and disability insurance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself, Mr. BOND, and Mr. KOHL):

S. 1384. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a national folic acid education program to prevent birth defects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. REED:

S. 1385. A bill to require that jewelry boxes imported from another country be indelibly marked with the country of origin; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROTH:

S. 1386. An original bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to extend the authorization for trade adjustment assistance; from the Committee on Finance; placed on the calendar.

S. 1387. An original bill to extend certain trade preferences to sub-Saharan African

countries; from the Committee on Finance; placed on the calendar.

S. 1388. An original bill to extend the Generalized System of Preferences; from the Committee on Finance; placed on the calendar.

S. 1389. An original bill to provide additional trade benefits to certain beneficiary countries in the Caribbean; from the Committee on Finance; placed on the calendar.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself, Mr. BOND, and Mr. KOHL):

S. 1384. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a national folic acid education program to prevent birth defects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

THE FOLIC ACID PROMOTION AND BIRTH DEFECTS PREVENTION ACT OF 1999

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Folic Acid Promotion and Birth Defects Prevention Act of 1999. I would also like to thank my colleagues Senator BOND and Senator KOHL for cosponsoring this important piece of legislation.

Mr. President, each year over 8,000 infants die from birth defects. The loss of these children, who could have grown up to be community leaders, teachers, doctors, or lawyers, weighs heavily upon our society. In addition, each year over 2,500 babies born live with serious birth defects of the brain and spine, called neural tube defects, and over 50 percent of these cases are preventable. In 1991, research proved that if pregnant women take as little as 400 micrograms of B vitamin folic acid each day, 50 to 70 percent of all cases of these serious birth defects of the brain and spine, such as spina bifida, would be prevented. Unfortunately, this information is not widely known by the public. According to a Gallup Poll conducted for the March of Dimes, only 32 percent of women of childbearing age reported taking a multivitamin with folic acid on a daily basis.

We must broaden public awareness about the prevention of these crippling defects. For this reason, I have introduced the Folic Acid Promotion and Birth Defects Prevention Act of 1999. This legislation authorizes \$20 million for the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), in partnership with state and local public and private entities, to launch an education and public awareness campaign, conduct research to identify effective strategies for increasing folic acid consumption by women of reproducing age, and evaluate the effectiveness of these strategies.

Mr. President, this legislation is an effort to link great advances in research with everyday life. This life-saving information about the consumption of folic acid, which will prolong the health and well-being of women and infants, needs to be broadcast to families and individuals across the country. It

is my firm belief that this legislation will be the vehicle to help bring this important message into every home in America.

I would like to take a moment to thank the March of Dimes for their involvement in this issue. Their work will be critical in getting this legislation passed and in helping spread the message of the benefits of folic acid. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 324

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 324, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to registration requirements for practitioners who dispense narcotic drugs in schedule IV or V for maintenance treatment or detoxification treatment.

S. 556

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 556, a bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to establish guidelines for the relocation, closing, consolidation, or construction of post offices, and for other purposes.

S. 593

At the request of Mr. COVERDELL, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 593, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase maximum taxable income for the 15 percent rate bracket, to provide a partial exclusion from gross income for dividends and interest received by individuals, to provide a long-term capital gains deduction for individuals, to increase the traditional IRA contribution limit, and for other purposes.

S. 782

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 782, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to modify the exception to the prohibition on the interception of wire, oral, or electronic communications to require a health insurance issuer, health plan, or health care provider obtain an enrollee's or patient's consent to their interception, and for other purposes.

S. 821

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 821, a bill to provide for the collection of data on traffic stops.

S. 1007

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1007, a bill to assist in the conservation of great apes by supporting and providing financial resources for the conservation programs of countries within the range of great apes and projects of persons with demonstrated expertise in the conservation of great apes.

S. 1150

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1150, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to more accurately codify the depreciable life of semiconductor manufacturing equipment.

S. 1155

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1155, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for uniform food safety warning notification requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 1207

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1207, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that income averaging for farmers not increase a farmer's liability for the alternative minimum tax.

S. 1289

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1289, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that the capital gain treatment under section 631(b) of such Code shall apply to outright sales of timber held for more than 1 year.

S. 1301

At the request of Mr. STEVENS, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL), and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. BRYAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1301, a bill to provide reasonable and non-discriminatory access to buildings owned or used by the Federal government for the provision of competitive telecommunications services by telecommunications carriers.

S. 1303

At the request of Mr. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1303, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify certain provisions relating to the treatment of forestry activities.

S. 1351

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1351, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the credit for electricity produced from renewable resources.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the public that the hearing scheduled before the Energy and Natural Resources Committee to receive testimony regarding S. 1052, To implement further the Act (Public Law 94-241) approving the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America, and for other purposes", has been postponed.

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

The hearing was scheduled to take place on Tuesday, July 27, 1999, at 9:30 A.M., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C., and is now scheduled to take place on Tuesday, August 3, 1999, at 9:30 A.M., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C.

For further information, please call Jim Birne, Deputy Chief Counsel (202) 224-2564 or Betty Nevitt, Staff Assistant at (202) 224-0765.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Friday, July 16, for purposes of conducting a full committee hearing which is scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. The purpose of this oversight hearing is to receive testimony on damage to the national security from Chinese espionage at DOE nuclear weapons laboratories.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet for a hearing re Review of the Report by the Commission on Structural Alternatives for the Federal Courts of Appeals regarding the Ninth Circuit and S. 253, the Ninth Circuit Reorganization Act, during the session of the Senate on Friday, July 16, 1999, at 9:30 a.m., in SD628.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 1999

The text of S. 1344, passed by the Senate on July 15, 1999, follows:

S. 1344

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Patients' Bill of Rights Plus Act".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

Subtitle A—Right to Advice and Care

Sec. 101. Patient right to medical advice and care.

"SUBPART C—PATIENT RIGHT TO MEDICAL ADVICE AND CARE

"Sec. 721. Patient access to emergency medical care.

"Sec. 722. Offering of choice of coverage options.

"Sec. 723. Patient access to obstetric and gynecological care.

"Sec. 724. Patient access to pediatric care.

"Sec. 725. Timely access to specialists.

"Sec. 726. Continuity of care.

"Sec. 727. Protection of patient-provider communications.

"Sec. 728. Patient's right to prescription drugs.

"Sec. 729. Self-payment for behavioral health care services.

"Sec. 730. Coverage for individuals participating in approved cancer clinical trials.

"Sec. 730A. Prohibiting discrimination against providers.

"Sec. 730B. Generally applicable provision."

Sec. 102. Conforming amendment to the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

"SUBCHAPTER C—PATIENT RIGHT TO MEDICAL ADVICE AND CARE

"Sec. 9821. Patient access to emergency medical care.

"Sec. 9822. Offering of choice of coverage options.

"Sec. 9823. Patient access to obstetric and gynecological care.

"Sec. 9824. Patient access to pediatric care.

"Sec. 9825. Timely access to specialists.

"Sec. 9826. Continuity of care.

"Sec. 9827. Protection of patient-provider communications.

"Sec. 9828. Patient's right to prescription drugs.

"Sec. 9829. Self-payment for behavioral health care services.

"Sec. 9830. Coverage for individuals participating in approved cancer clinical trials.

"Sec. 9830A. Prohibiting discrimination against providers.

"Sec. 9830B. Generally applicable provision."

Sec. 103. Effective date and related rules.

Subtitle B—Right to Information About Plans and Providers

Sec. 111. Information about plans.

Sec. 112. Information about providers.

Subtitle C—Right to Hold Health Plans Accountable

Sec. 121. Amendment to Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.

TITLE II—WOMEN'S HEALTH AND CANCER RIGHTS

Sec. 201. Women's health and cancer rights.

TITLE III—GENETIC INFORMATION AND SERVICES

Sec. 301. Short title.

Sec. 302. Amendments to Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.

TITLE III—GENETIC INFORMATION AND SERVICES

Sec. 303. Amendments to the Public Health Service Act.

Sec. 304. Amendments to the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

TITLE IV—HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY

Sec. 401. Short title.

Sec. 402. Amendment to the Public Health Service Act.

"TITLE IX—AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY

"PART A—ESTABLISHMENT AND GENERAL DUTIES

"Sec. 901. Mission and duties.

"Sec. 902. General authorities.

"PART B—HEALTHCARE IMPROVEMENT RESEARCH

"Sec. 911. Healthcare outcome improvement research.

"Sec. 912. Private-public partnerships to improve organization and delivery.

"Sec. 913. Information on quality and cost of care.