

extend current law with respect to special allowances for lenders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DASCHLE (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 1763. A bill to promote rural safety and improve rural law enforcement; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN:

S. 1764. A bill to provide incentives to increase research by commercial, for-profit entities to develop vaccines, microbicides, diagnostic technologies, and other drugs to prevent and treat illnesses associated with a biological or chemical weapons attack; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BOND, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BURNS, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. CARNAHAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. CRAIG, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DODD, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. KERRY, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. SPECTER, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. STEVENS, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. MILLER, Mr. THOMPSON, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. REED, Mr. WARNER, Mr. REID, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. HELMS, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. HATCH, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 1765. A bill to improve the ability of the United States to prepare for and respond to a biological threat or attack; read the first time.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. DASCHLE:

S. Res. 186. A resolution to authorize representation of Senator Lott in the case of *Lee v. Lott*; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 690

At the request of Mr. WELLSTONE, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 690, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand and improve coverage of mental health services under the medicare program.

S. 724

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 724, a bill to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of pregnancy-related assistance for targeted low-income pregnant women.

S. 990

At the request of Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, the name of the Senator

from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 990, a bill to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to improve the provisions relating to wildlife conservation and restoration programs, and for other purposes.

S. 999

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 999, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for a Korea Defense Service Medal to be issued to members of the Armed Forces who participated in operations in Korea after the end of the Korean War.

S. 1008

At the request of Mr. BYRD, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1008, a bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to develop the United States Climate Change Response Strategy with the goal of stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system, while minimizing adverse short-term and long-term economic and social impacts, aligning the Strategy with United States energy policy, and promoting a sound national environmental policy, to establish a research and development program that focuses on bold technological breakthroughs that make significant progress toward the goal of stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations, to establish the National Office of Climate Change Response within the Executive Office of the President, and for other purposes.

S. 1209

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1209, a bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to consolidate and improve the trade adjustment assistance programs, to provide community-based economic development assistance for trade-affected communities, and for other purposes.

S. 1248

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1248, a bill to establish a National Housing Trust Fund in the Treasury of the United States to provide for the development of decent, safe, and affordable, housing for low-income families, and for other purposes.

S. 1312

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1312, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of Virginia Key Beach, Florida, for possible inclusion in the National Park System.

S. 1373

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1373, a bill to protect the right to life of each born and preborn human person in existence at fertilization.

S. 1478

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) were added as cosponsors of S. 1478, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to improve the treatment of certain animals, and for other purposes.

S. 1609

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1609, a bill to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Metacomet-Monadnock-Mattabesett Trail extending through western Massachusetts and central Connecticut as a national historic trail.

S. 1618

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1618, a bill to enhance the border security of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1678

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1678, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that a member of the uniformed services or the Foreign Service shall be treated as using a principal residence while away from home on qualified official extended duty in determining the exclusion of gain from the sale of such residence.

S. 1707

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1707, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to specify the update for payments under the medicare physician fee schedule for 2002 and to direct the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission to conduct a study on replacing the use of the sustainable growth rate as a factor in determining such update in subsequent years.

S. 1738

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1738, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide regulatory relief, appeals process reforms, contracting flexibility, and education improvements under the medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 1745

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CLELAND), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. TORRICELLI), and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1745, a bill to delay until

at least January 1, 2003, any changes in medicaid regulations that modify the medicaid upper payment limit for non-State Government-owned or operated hospitals.

S. 1749

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL), and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) were added as cosponsors of S. 1749, a bill to enhance the border security of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1757

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1757, a bill to authorize an additional permanent judgeship in the district of Idaho, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 12

At the request of Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 12, a joint resolution granting the consent of Congress to the International Emergency Management Assistance Memorandum of Understanding.

AMENDMENT NO. 2152

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2152 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3090, a bill to provide tax incentives for economic recovery.

AMENDMENT NO. 2157

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2157 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3090, a bill to provide tax incentives for economic recovery.

AMENDMENT NO. 2202

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2202.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINTS RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. THOMAS (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN):

S. 1760. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under part B of the Medicare Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I am pleased to rise today to introduce the Seniors Mental Health Access Improvement Act of 2001 with my distinguished colleague from Arkansas, Mrs. LINCOLN. Specifically, the Seniors Mental Health Access Improvement Act of 2001 permits mental health counselors and marriage and family therapists to bill Medicare for their services. This will result in an increased choice of providers for seniors and enhance their ability to access mental health services in their communities.

This legislation is especially crucial to rural seniors who are often forced to travel long distances to utilize the services of mental health providers currently recognized by the Medicare program. Rural communities have difficulty recruiting and retaining providers, especially mental health providers. In many small towns a mental health counselor or a marriage and family therapist is the only mental health care provider in the area. Medicare law, as it exists today, compounds the situation because only psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, clinical social workers and clinical nurse specialists are able to bill Medicare for their services.

It is time the Medicare program recognized the qualifications of mental health counselors and marriage and family therapists as well as the critical role they play in the mental health care infrastructure. These providers go through rigorous training, similar to the curriculum of masters level social workers, and yet are excluded from the Medicare program.

Particularly troubling to me is the fact that seniors have disproportionately higher rates of depression and suicide than other populations. Additionally, 75 percent of the 518 nationally designated Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas are located in rural areas and one-fifth of all rural counties have no mental health services of any kind. Frontier counties have even more drastic numbers as 95 percent do not have a psychiatrist, 68 percent do not have a psychologist and 78 percent do not have a social worker. It is quite obvious we have an enormous task ahead of us to reduce these staggering statistics. Providing mental health counselors and marriage and family therapists the ability to bill Medicare for their services is a key part of the solution.

Virtually all of my State of Wyoming is a mental health professional shortage area and will greatly benefit from this legislation. Wyoming has 169 psychologists, 121 psychiatrists, and 247 social workers for a total of 537 Medicare eligible mental health providers. Enactment of the Seniors Mental Health Access Improvement Act of 2001 will double the number of mental health providers available to seniors in my State with the addition of 517 mental health counselors and 55 marriage and family therapists currently licensed in the State.

In crafting this legislation Senator LINCOLN and I worked with numerous outside organizations with an interest in this issue. As a result of this collaboration, the "Seniors Mental Health Access Improvement Act of 2001" is strongly supported by the American Counseling Association, the Wyoming Counseling Association, the American Mental Health Counselors Association, the Arkansas Mental Health Counselors Association, the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, the Wyoming and Arkansas Chap-

ters of the Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists, and the National Rural Health Association.

I believe this legislation is critically important to the health and well-being of our Nation's Seniors and I strongly urge all my colleagues to become a cosponsor.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill and letters of endorsement from supporting organizations be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 1760

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 "Seniors Mental Health Access Improvement Act of 2001".

SEC. 2. COVERAGE OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST SERVICES AND MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR SERVICES UNDER PART B OF THE MEDICARE PROGRAM.

(a) COVERAGE OF SERVICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861(s)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(s)(2)), as amended by sections 102(a) and 105(a) of the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Benefits Improvement and Protection Act of 2000 (114 Stat. 2763A-468 and 2763A-471), as enacted into law by section 1(a)(6) of Public Law 106-554, is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (U), by striking "and" after the semicolon at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (V)(iii), by inserting "and" after the semicolon at the end; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(W) marriage and family therapist services (as defined in subsection (ww)(1)) and mental health counselor services (as defined in subsection (ww)(3));".

(2) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1861 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x), as amended by sections 102(b) and 105(b) of the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Benefits Improvement and Protection Act of 2000 (114 Stat. 2763A-468 and 2763A-471), as enacted into law by section 1(a)(6) of Public Law 106-554, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"Marriage and Family Therapist Services; Marriage and Family Therapist; Mental Health Counselor Services; Mental Health Counselor

"(ww)(1) The term 'marriage and family therapist services' means services performed by a marriage and family therapist (as defined in paragraph (2)) for the diagnosis and treatment of mental illnesses, which the marriage and family therapist is legally authorized to perform under State law (or the State regulatory mechanism provided by State law) of the State in which such services are performed, as would otherwise be covered if furnished by a physician or as an incident to a physician's professional service, but only if no facility or other provider charges or is paid any amounts with respect to the furnishing of such services.

"(2) The term 'marriage and family therapist' means an individual who—

"(A) possesses a master's or doctoral degree which qualifies for licensure or certification as a marriage and family therapist pursuant to State law;