

S. 2520: A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to the sexual exploitation of children.

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment:

S. 2541: A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to establish penalties for aggravated identity theft, and for other purposes.

S. 2934: A bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to clarify the requirements for eligibility in the American Legion.

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Con. Res. 94: A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that public awareness and education about the importance of health care coverage is of the utmost priority and that a National Importance of Health Care Coverage Month should be established to promote that awareness and education.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Michael W. McConnell, of Utah, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit.

Dennis W. Shedd, of South Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

Kevin J. O'Connor, of Connecticut, to be United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut for the term of four years.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

NOMINATIONS DISCHARGED

The following nominations were discharged from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation pursuant to the order of November 14, 2002:

Coast Guard nomination of Dana B. Reid.

Coast Guard nominations beginning Douglas A. Ash and ending Warren E. Soloduk, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on October 17, 2002.

Coast Guard nominations beginning Anthony J. Alarid and ending Michael B. Zamperini, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 12, 2002.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. BARKLEY (for himself, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. LOTT, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURNS, Mr. BYRD, Mr. CAMPBELL, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CARNAHAN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. CLELAND, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DODD, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr.

EDWARDS, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. FRIST, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HELMS, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MILLER, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. REED, Mr. REID, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3156. A bill to provide a grant for the construction of a new community center in St. Paul, Minnesota, in honor of the late Senator Paul Wellstone and his beloved wife, Sheila; considered and passed.

By Mr. BUNNING:

S. 3157. A bill to expand the boundaries of the Fort Donelson National Battlefield, to authorize the acquisition of land associated with the campaign that resulted in the capture of Fort Donelson in 1862, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. DEWINE):

S. 3158. A bill to establish a grant program to provide comprehensive eye examinations to children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. LINCOLN:

S. 3159. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to render inadmissible to the United States the extended family of international child abductors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NELSON of Nebraska:

S. 3160. A bill to provide emergency disaster assistance to agricultural producers; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. JEFFORDS):

S. 3161. A bill to provide a definition of a prevailing party for Federal fee-shifting statutes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. CLELAND, and Mr. EDWARDS):

S. 3162. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to enhance the security of transporting high-level nuclear waste and spent nuclear fuel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DEWINE:

S. 3163. A bill to establish a grant program to enable institutions of higher education to improve schools of education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DEWINE:

S. 3164. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve the loan forgiveness program for child care providers, including preschool teachers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DEWINE (for himself and Mr. ROCKEFELLER):

S. 3165. A bill to provide loan forgiveness to social workers who work for child protective agencies; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DEWINE (for himself and Mr. ROCKEFELLER):

S. 3166. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide loan forgiveness for attorneys who represent low-income families or individuals involved in the family or domestic relations court systems; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DEWINE (for himself and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 3167. A bill to provide grants to States and outlying areas to encourage the States and outlying areas to enhance existing or establish new statewide coalitions among institutions of higher education, communities around the institutions, and other relevant organization or groups, including anti-drug or anti-alcohol coalitions, to reduce underage drinking and illicit drug-use by students, both on and off campus; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DODD:

S. 3168. A bill to improve funeral home, cemetery, and crematory inspections systems, to establish consumer protections relating to funeral service contracts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 3169. A bill to provide for military charters between military installations and local school districts, to provide credit enhancement initiatives to promote military charter school facility acquisition, construction, and renovation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S.J. Res. 53. A joint resolution relative to the convening of the first session of the One Hundred Eighth Congress; considered and passed.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. DAYTON:

S. Res. 356. A resolution paying a gratuity to Trudy Lopic; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER):

S. Res. 357. A resolution commending and congratulating the Anaheim Angels for their remarkable spirit, resilience, and athletic discipline in winning the 2002 World Series; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 486

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 486, a bill to reduce the risk that innocent persons may be executed, and for other purposes.

S. 650

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 650, a bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to prohibit the exportation of Alaska North Slope crude oil.

S. 987

At the request of Mr. TORRICELLI, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr.

WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 987, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to permit States the option to provide medicaid coverage for low-income individuals infected with HIV.

S. 1304

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. CARNAHAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1304, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the medicare program of oral drugs to reduce serum phosphate levels in dialysis patients with end-stage renal disease.

S. 2035

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2035, a bill to provide for the establishment of health plan purchasing alliances.

S. 2445

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. FITZGERALD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2445, a bill to establish a program to promote child literacy by making books available through early learning, child care, literacy, and nutrition programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2577

At the request of Mr. FITZGERALD, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2577, a bill to repeal the sunset of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 with respect to the exclusion from Federal income tax for restitution received by victims of the Nazi Regime.

S. 2752

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2752, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the establishment of medicare demonstration programs to improve health care quality.

S. 2903

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2903, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a guaranteed adequate level of funding for veterans health care.

S. 2922

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. THURMOND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2922, a bill to facilitate the deployment of wireless telecommunications networks in order to further the availability of the Emergency Alert System, and for other purposes.

S. 3081

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3081, a bill to amend the Inter-

nal Revenue Code of 1986 to suspend the tax-exempt status of designated terrorist organizations, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 50

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 50, A joint resolution expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to human rights in Central Asia.

S. RES. 339

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 339, A resolution designating November 2002, as "National Runaway Prevention Month".

S. CON. RES. 52

At the request of Mr. CORZINE, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 52, A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that reducing crime in public housing should be a priority, and that the successful Public Housing Drug Elimination Program should be fully funded.

S. CON. RES. 155

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. THURMOND) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 155, A concurrent resolution affirming the importance of a national day of prayer and fasting, and expressing the sense of Congress that November 27, 2002, should be designated as a national day of prayer and fasting.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. DEWINE):

S. 3158. A bill to establish a grant program to provide comprehensive eye examinations to children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the "Children's Vision Improvement and Learning Readiness Act." I am pleased to be joined by my colleague from Ohio, Senator DEWINE, in this effort. Vision disorders are the fourth most common disability in the United States and the most prevalent handicapping condition among children. This is a startling fact when one considers that eighty percent of what children learn is acquired through vision processing information and the quality of children's eye health has a direct impact on their learning and achievement.

It is estimated that almost ten percent of children have clinically significant vision impairment, which are associated with developmental delays and the need for special education, vocational, and social services. Specifically, studies have found that among the twenty percent of school age children who have a learning disability in

reading, seventy percent have some form of visual impairment, such as ocular motor, perceptual or binocular dysfunction, that could interfere with their reading skills. The "Children's Vision Improvement and Learning Readiness Act" recognizes the importance of diagnosing vision disorders in children at an early age so as to allow intervention at a time when these disorders are highly responsive to treatment.

Unfortunately, too many children in school today live with an undiagnosed vision impairment and too many times these same children have not had a comprehensive eye examination prior to entering school. In fact, only one-third of all children have had an eye examination or vision screening prior to entering school despite evidence that the earlier a vision problem is diagnosed and corrected, the less the potential negative impact it may have on a child's development.

In addition, undiagnosed visual problems impose economic costs on our Nation. In 1995, the economic impact of visual disorders and disabilities was approximately \$38.4 billion. Yet, early, comprehensive eye exams in children can help reduce the economic and social costs associated with undiagnosed eye disorders. Providing comprehensive eye examinations to children before they enter school helps to decrease long-term medical expenditures, prevent inappropriate placement of children in special education programs, and avoid social welfare spending by improving children's ability to learn and achieve a greater degree of educational and economic attainment.

The "Children's Vision Improvement and Learning Readiness Act" gives the Secretary of Health and Human Services the authority to provide grants to States for a variety of educational and outreach activities related to improving and safeguarding the eye health and academic success of our nation's children. Grants may be used for the development of a voluntary statewide school-based comprehensive eye examination program for elementary school age children; the development of State-based education programs to increase public awareness of the benefits of comprehensive eye examinations; and the flexibility of providing comprehensive eye examinations through other related federal programs, such as Head Start, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Child Care Block Grant, and the Consolidated Health Centers programs.

This important measure will help ensure that our nation's children have access to comprehensive eye examinations so they can start school prepared for a lifetime of learning and achievement. I urge my colleagues to join me and Senator DEWINE in supporting this legislation that will help to boost the well-being and academic achievement of our nation's school children.