

GRAHAM, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. CORZINE, and Mrs. CARNAHAN):

S. 2057. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit expansion of medical residency training programs in geriatric medicine and to provide for reimbursement of care coordination and assessment services provided under the medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. LINCOLN (for herself, Mr. BREAUX, and Mr. ROCKEFELLER):

S. 2058. A bill to replace the caseload reduction credit with an employment credit under the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HUTCHINSON, and Mr. DODD):

S. 2059. A bill to amend the Pubic Health Service Act to provide for Alzheimer's disease research and demonstration grants; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 2060. A bill to name the Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office in St. Petersburg, Florida, after Franklin D. Miller; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BOND:

S. 2061. A bill to establish a national response to terrorism, a national urban search and rescue task force program to ensure local capability to respond to the threat and aftermath of terrorist activities and other emergencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 2062. A bill to provide fast-track trade negotiating authority to the President; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. LINCOLN:

S. 2063. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange all or part of certain administrative sites and other land in the Ozark-St. Francis and Ouachita National Forests and to use funds derived from the sale or exchange to acquire, construct, or improve administrative sites; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. JEFFORDS, and Mr. INOUE):

S. 2064. A bill to reauthorize the United States Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CAMPBELL (for himself and Mr. ALLARD):

S. 2065. A bill to provide for the implementation of air quality programs developed pursuant to an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Southern Ute Indian Tribes and the State of Colorado concerning Air Quality Control on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

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

S. Res. 230. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that Congress should reject reductions in guaranteed Social Security benefits proposed by the President's Commission to Strengthen Social Security; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DASCHLE (for himself, Mr. LOTT, Mr. CLELAND, and Mr. MILLER):

S. Res. 231. A resolution relative to the death of the Honorable Herman E. Talmadge, formerly a Senator from the State of Georgia; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 170

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 170, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive both military retired pay by reason of their years of military service and disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability.

S. 259

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 259, a bill to authorize funding the Department of Energy to enhance its mission areas through Technology Transfer and Partnerships for fiscal years 2002 through 2006, and for other purposes.

S. 540

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of S. 540, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow as a deduction in determining adjusted gross income the deduction for expenses in connection with services as a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States, to allow employers a credit against income tax with respect to employees who participate in the military reserve components, and to allow a comparable credit for participating reserve component self-employed individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 677

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) were added as cosponsors of S. 677, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the required use of certain principal repayments on mortgage subsidy bond financing to redeem bonds, to modify the purchase price limitation under mortgage subsidy bond rules based on median family income, and for other purposes.

S. 891

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 891, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act with respect to extensions of credit to consumers under the age of 21.

S. 948

At the request of Mr. LOTT, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) was added as a cosponsor of S.

948, a bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Transportation to carry out a grant program for providing financial assistance for local rail line relocation projects, and for other purposes.

S. 1492

At the request of Mr. GRAMM, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1492, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the tax relief sunset and to reduce the maximum capital gains rates for individual taxpayers, and for other purposes.

S. 1549

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1549, a bill to provide for increasing the technically trained workforce in the United States.

S. 1644

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1644, a bill to further the protection and recognition of veterans' memorials, and for other purposes.

S. 1655

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1655, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit certain interstate conduct relating to exotic animals.

S. 1707

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) 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. 1708

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. MILLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1708, a bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to ensure the continuity of medical care following a major disaster by making private for-profit medical facilities eligible for Federal disaster assistance.

S. 1915

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1915, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat natural gas distribution lines as 10-year property for depreciation purposes.

S. 2009

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2009, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide

services for the prevention of family violence.

S. 2039

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. CARNAHAN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) were added as cosponsors of S. 2039, a bill to expand aviation capacity in the Chicago area.

S. RES. 132

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 132, a resolution recognizing the social problem of child abuse and neglect, and supporting efforts to enhance public awareness of it.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself, Mr. CRAIG, and Mr. BURNS):

S. 2040. A bill to provide emergency agricultural assistance to producers of the 2002 crop; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce an agricultural supplemental assistance package for the 2002 crops. I had hoped we would not be in this position today. Unfortunately, due to delays in completing the farm bill conference report prior to the Easter recess, I believe it is necessary to introduce this legislation.

I want to make it very clear that in introducing this legislation, it does not mean the farm bill is dead. It may need CPR, but it certainly is not dead. Quite the contrary. The staff of conferees have been instructed by the distinguished leadership of both parties of the House and Senate to continue to work over the recess period in the hope that a bill can be completed shortly after the Easter recess. Having been involved in numerous farm bills, I know these conferences can often become quite contentious and bogged down.

Furthermore, it is not going to be easy to implement this bill, not to mention the wisdom of simply trying to push through a bill so we can just say it applies to 2002 crops. That may be easy to do this year, but it may be difficult to live under the problems we could create for the next 5 or 6 years.

Has anyone really stopped to consider this?

In addition, we already have many farmers in the South who have begun their spring planting, and producers all throughout the Nation will begin to pull their drills through the fields in the coming weeks. Many of these producers and their bankers are desperately trying to run cashflow charts and figure out exactly what they will be dealing with for this current crop as they work to determine their operating loans. They are scratching their heads.

The biggest uncertainty they face is the level and form of agricultural as-

sistance for this crop-year. Will it be through a new farm bill, if we can get through a new farm bill—and I certainly hope we can and people are working in good faith to get that accomplished—but will it be through a new farm bill in place for the 2002 crops, or will it be through a supplemental assistance package for 2002 while the new bill would go into effect for the 2003 crops?

My point in introducing this legislation is to send a clear message to producers and their bankers, and that message is this: We are going to do everything in our power in Congress to get a farm bill completed and out the door, but we should also make sure it is a good bill, and doing a good bill does take time. If additional time is needed to complete the bill past the time when it can apply to this year's crops, we are then ready to come in with a supplemental assistance package.

This is an important line in the sand that our producers and our lenders can use to gauge cashflow projections as they work on operating loans for this crop-year. It is an important and necessary signal as we move toward a planting season that will soon be in full swing in many parts of the country.

Unlike the 1,400-page farm bill we passed in the Senate, there are no surprises in this supplemental legislation. The bill is very similar to the assistance packages we have provided to our producers in recent years, and it adheres to the budget allocations that were provided for agriculture in last year's budget resolution.

I have a list of levels of assistance that will be provided to farmers and ranchers. The levels of assistance are as follows:

\$5.047 billion for a Market Loss Assistance, MLA, payment equal to the 2000 AMTA payment received by our producers. On a crop-by-crop basis, this is: wheat, 58.8 cents a bushel; corn, 33.4 cents a bushel; sorghum, 40 cents a bushel; barley, 25.1 cents a bushel; cotton, 7.33 cents a pound; rice, \$2.60 per cwt; oats, 2.8 cents a bushel.

All of these figures are above the level of MLAs we provided last year.

The bill also includes: \$466 million for oilseed payments; \$55.21 million for payments to peanut producers; \$93 million for recourse loans to honey producers; \$186 million for specialty crop commodity purchases, with at least \$55 million used for school lunch program purchases; \$16.94 million for payments to wool and mohair producers; \$93 million for cottonseed assistance; LDP eligibility for crops produced on non-AMTA acreage; LDP graze-out for wheat, barley, and oats for the 2002 crop; extension of the dairy price support program through December 31, 2002; \$20 million for payment to producers of pulse crops; \$100 million for tobacco assistance; \$44 million for Conservation Reserve Program Technical Assistance; \$200 million for the Wet-

lands Reserve Program; \$300 million in additional funds for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, EQIP; \$161 million for the Farmland Protection Program; and \$500 million for the livestock feed assistance program, LAP, to provide assistance to producers for losses suffered in 2001 and 2002.

I will be happy to talk this proposal over with my colleagues, and I seek bipartisan cosponsors in this effort. These market loss assistance levels are above the levels provided to program crops last year and they are similar to the AMTA payment levels we provided in 2000.

In closing, while this package does not represent a new farm bill, it does send a strong signal to producers and their bankers that even if a farm bill cannot be completed in time to apply to the 2002 year crop, we do intend to hold them whole or have a hold harmless bill at a level of Market Loss Assistance that is somewhat higher than occurred last year.

Many of us are hearing from producers and lenders for guidance on what to plan for in terms of assistance this year. This bill makes clear we stand ready to again support our producers if we cannot complete the new bill in time for 2002 crops, which I hope we can do. I urge support for this legislation.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. 2042. A bill to expand access to affordable health care and to strengthen the health care safety net and make health care services more available in rural and underserved areas; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am pleased to join with my good friend and colleague, the Senator from Louisiana, MARY LANDRIEU, in introducing the Access to Affordable Health Care Act. This is a comprehensive seven-point plan that builds on the strengths of our current programs, both public and private, to make quality affordable health care available to millions more Americans.

One of my top priorities in the Senate has been to expand access to affordable health care to all Americans. There are still far too many people in our country without health insurance or with woefully inadequate coverage. An estimated 39 million Americans do not have health care insurance, including more than 150,000 in my home State of Maine.

The fact is, health insurance matters. The simple fact is that people with health insurance are healthier than those who lack coverage. People without health insurance are less likely to seek care when they need it and tend to forgo services such as periodic checkups and preventative services. As a consequence, they are far more likely to be hospitalized or to require costly medical attention for conditions that could have been prevented or cured if caught at an early stage.