

S. 2609

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2609, a bill to require the Federal Trade Commission to promulgate a rule to establish requirements with respect to the release of prescriptions for contact lenses.

S.J. RES. 37

At the request of Mr. WELLSTONE, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 37, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services within the Department of Health and Human Services relating to modification of the medicaid upper payment limit for non-State government owned or operated hospitals published in the Federal Register on January 18, 2002, and submitted to the Senate on March 15, 2002.

S. RES. 270

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 270, a resolution designating the week of October 13, 2002, through October 19, 2002, as "National Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Week."

S. CON. RES. 110

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 110, a concurrent resolution honoring the heroism and courage displayed by airline flight attendants on a daily basis.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS—JUNE 17, 2002

By Mr. INOUE.

S. 2630. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve benefits for Filipino veterans of World War II and surviving spouses of such veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, today I rise to introduce legislation that would amend Title 38 of the United States Code to provide health care and burial benefits to all Filipino veterans of World War II and their spouses who reside in the United States.

Many of you are aware of my continued advocacy on the importance of addressing the plight of Filipino World War II veterans. As an American, I believe the treatment of Filipino World War II veterans is bleak and shameful. The Philippines became a United States possession in 1898, when it was ceded from Spain following the Spanish-American War. In 1934, the Congress enacted the Philippine Independence Act, Public Law 73-127, which provided a 10-year time frame for the inde-

pendence of the Philippines. Between 1934 and final independence in 1946, the United States retained certain powers over the Philippines, including the right to call all military forces organized by the newly-formed Commonwealth government into the service of the United States Armed Forces.

The Commonwealth Army of the Philippines was called to serve with the United States Armed Forces in the Far East during World War II under President Roosevelt's July 26, 1941 military order. The Filipinos who served were entitled to full veterans' benefits by reason of their active service with our armed forces. Hundreds were wounded in battle and many hundreds died in battle. Shortly after Japan's surrender, the Congress also enacted the Armed Forces Voluntary Recruitment Act of 1945 for the purpose of sending Filipino troops to occupy enemy lands, and to oversee military installations at various overseas locations. These troops were authorized to receive pay and allowances for services performed throughout the Western Pacific. Although hostilities had ceased, wartime service of these troops continued as a matter of law until the end of 1946.

Despite all of their sacrifices, on February 18, 1946, the Congress enacted the Rescission Act of 1946, now codified as Section 107 of Title 38 of the United States Code. The 1946 Act deemed that the service performed by these Filipino veterans would not be recognized as "active service" for the purpose of any U.S. law conferring "rights, privileges, or benefits." Accordingly, Section 107 denied Filipino veterans access to health care, particularly for non-service-connected disabilities, and pension benefits. Section 107 also limited service-connected disability and death compensation to 50 percent of what is received by their American counterparts.

On May 27, 1946, the Congress enacted the Second Supplemental Surplus Appropriations Rescission Act, which duplicated the language that had eliminated Filipino veterans' benefits under the First Rescission Act. Thus, Filipino veterans who fought in the service of the United States during World War II have been precluded from receiving most of the veterans' benefits that had been available to them before 1946, and that are available to all other veterans of our armed forces regardless of race, national origin, or citizenship status.

The Health Care for Filipino World War II Veterans Act includes four provisions: health care and nursing home care access for Filipino veterans residing in the United States; dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses of certain Filipino veterans, provided the surviving spouse lives in the United States; an increase in the payment amount from 50 to 100 percent for service-connected disability compensation for new Philippine Scout veterans residing in the United States and burial benefits for new Philippine

Scout veterans. All these measures will assist Filipino veterans in their twilight years, and the bill is fully supported by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Throughout the years, I have sponsored several measures to rectify the lack of appreciation America has shown to those gallant men and women who stood in harm's way with our American soldiers and fought the common enemy during World War II. It is time that we, as a Nation, recognize our long-standing history and friendship with the Philippines. The legislation I introduce today will remove the burden of health care and burial costs for a very deserving group of highly decorated individuals: members of the Filipino Commonwealth Army and new Philippine Scouts who valiantly fought with the Allied forces in the Second World War. These groups have been neglected by the United States Congress.

Heroes should never be forgotten or ignored; let us not turn our backs on those who sacrificed so much. Let us now work to repay all of these brave men and women for their sacrifices by providing them the veterans' benefits they deserve. I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of this bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 2630

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 "Health Care for Filipino World War II Veterans Act".

SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY FOR HEALTH CARE OF CERTAIN ADDITIONAL FILIPINO WORLD WAR II VETERANS RESIDING IN THE UNITED STATES.

The text of section 1734 of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"(a) The Secretary shall furnish hospital and nursing home care and medical services to any individual described in subsection (b) in the same manner, and subject to the same terms and conditions, as apply to the furnishing of such care and services to individuals who are veterans as defined in section 101(2) of this title. Any disability of an individual described in subsection (b) that is a service-connected disability for purposes of this subchapter (as provided for under section 1735(2) of this title) shall be considered to be a service-connected disability for purposes of furnishing care and services under the preceding sentence.

"(b) Subsection (a) applies to any individual who is a Commonwealth Army veteran or new Philippine Scout and who—

"(1) is residing in the United States; and

"(2) is a citizen of the United States or an alien lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence."

SEC. 3. RATE OF PAYMENT OF DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES OF CERTAIN FILIPINO VETERANS.

(a) RATE OF PAYMENT.—Subsection (c) of section 107 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting "and under chapter 13 of this title," after "chapter 11 of this title".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on

the date of enactment of this Act and shall apply to benefits paid for months beginning on or after that date.

SEC. 4. RATE OF PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION BENEFITS FOR NEW PHILIPPINE SCOUTS RESIDING IN THE UNITED STATES.

(a) **RATE OF PAYMENT.**—Section 107 of title 38, United States Code, as amended by section 3(a), is further amended—

(1) in the second sentence of subsection (b), by striking “Payments” and inserting “Except as provided in subsection (c) or (d), payments”; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by inserting “or (b)” after “subsection (a)” the first place it appears; and

(B) by striking “subsection (a)” the second place it appears and inserting “the applicable subsection”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply to benefits paid for months beginning on or after that date.

SEC. 5. BURIAL BENEFITS FOR NEW PHILIPPINE SCOUTS.

(a) **BENEFIT ELIGIBILITY.**—Subsection (b)(2) of section 107 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “and”; and

(2) by inserting “, 23, and 24 (to the extent provided for in section 2402(8) of this title)” after “1312(a))”.

(b) **BENEFIT RATE FOR CERTAIN PERSONS IN THE UNITED STATES.**—Subsection (d) of such section is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “or subsection (b), as the case may be,” after “subsection (a)”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by inserting “, or whose service is described in subsection (b) and who dies on or after the date of the enactment of the Health Care for Filipino World War II Veterans Act” in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) after “this subsection”.

(c) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 2402(8) of such title is amended by inserting “or 107(b)” after “107(a)”.

(d) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to deaths occurring on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS—JUNE 18, 2002

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 2631. A bill to amend the temporary assistance to needy families program under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act to provide grants for transitional jobs programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Madam President, I rise today to introduce the STEP Act on behalf of myself and Senator MURRAY.

This bill is a companion to the Education Works Act, which I introduced a couple of weeks ago. Both bills address the same issue, the need to support state efforts to use welfare to work strategies that combine work with a flexibility mix of education, training, and other supports. Study after study has demonstrated that states that use a combination of activities to help families move from welfare to work are more successful. For many welfare re-

cipients, vocational training and post-secondary education led to work and, through substantial increases in earnings and job quality, long-term financial independence. This is important because although many have left welfare for work during the past several years, many have returned or live in poverty dependent on other government supports because they are working at low wages with limited benefits. In addition, many with multiple barriers remain on the rolls. As we move forward with the reauthorization process, we must do more to support state efforts to help these people find work and to ensure that all individuals leaving welfare are moving to employment that will provide long-term financial independence. The STEP Act and the Education Works Act will do just that.

The Education Works Act deals with increasing state flexibility to determine the right mix of work with education and training. The STEP Act provides resources to States seeking to implement effective programs that combine work with education and training. One of the most effective types of these programs, particularly for the most difficult to serve TANF recipients, are transitional job programs. Transitional job programs provide subsidized, temporary, wage-paying jobs for 20 to 35 hours per week, along with access to job readiness, basic education, vocational skills, and other barrier-removal services based on individualized plans. The STEP Act would provide states with funding to implementing these programs and other training and support programs.

Existing transitional job programs are achieving great outcomes. A Mathematical study released last month demonstrated that between 81 to 94 percent of those who had completed transitional job programs move on to unsubsidized jobs with wages. Most of these participants moved into full-time employment, median hours worked was 40 hours. Another survey revealed that transitional jobs program completers reported average wages at placement into unsubsidized employment between \$7 and \$10 per hour.

Transitional jobs programs can be particularly effective with the hardest to serve welfare recipients. Transitional jobs program often focus primarily on welfare recipients who have participated in welfare employment and training programs without successfully finding steady employment. The reasons for their inability to find and sustain meaningful employment are complex and varied. For people who face barriers, or who lack the skills or experience to compete successfully in the labor market, paid work in a supportive environment, together with access to needed services provides a real chance to move forward. While more expensive than other work first strategies, transitional jobs programs are able to do what their cheaper and less intensive counterparts have not, help the most difficult to serve TANF par-

ticipants find stable, permanent employment.

Additional support for transitional jobs programs is needed. The TANF and Welfare-to-Work block grants have been the principal sources of funding for Transitional Jobs programs. Welfare-to-Work funds have been exhausted in many parts of the country and must be spent completely during the next year or two. In addition, with an ever growing competition for TANF funds in a period of rising caseloads and declining State revenues, it will be increasingly difficult to fund transitional jobs programs solely with TANF funds.

I believe that transitional job programs are good investments because they serve as stepping stones to permanent employment and decrease government expenditures on health care, food stamps, and cash assistance. Transitional jobs programs can be particularly important in economically depressed and rural areas because they increase work opportunities for hard-to-employ individuals, they reduce pressure on local emergency systems and, they provide income that stimulates local economies.

Our legislation also supports “business link” programs that provide individuals with fewer barriers or individuals who have only been able to access very low wage employment with intensive training and skill development activities designed to lead to long-term, higher paid employment. These programs are based on partnerships with the private sector.

In my home State, just such a program is producing great results, the Teamworks program. Teamworks provides training in life skills, as well as employment skills, during a 12 week course. The program also provides necessary supports to participants such as childcare and transportation. Teamworks assists participants in their job search and provides ongoing support for 18 months after job placement. The results are impressive. The average wage of those completing the program is \$1.50 per hour higher than other programs and job retention rates are 20 percent higher. This experience is not unique. Welfare programs that combine work with education and training with support services are more likely to result in work leads to self-sufficiency.

The legislation that I am introducing today will give States the tools to implement what works. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting both the STEP Act and the Education Works Act. I as unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 2631

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 “Support, Training, Employment Programs Act of 2002” or the “STEP Act of 2002”.