

S. Res. 315. A resolution congratulating Lance Armstrong for winning the 2002 Tour de France; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. LINCOLN (for herself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. MILLER, and Mr. FRIST):

S. Res. 316. A bill designating the year beginning February 1, 2003, as the "Year of the Blues"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. Res. 317. A resolution to authorize the production of records by the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Governmental Affairs; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. LINCOLN:

S. Res. 318. A resolution designating August 2002, as "National Missing Adult Awareness Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. GRAMM:

S. Res. 319. A resolution recognizing the accomplishments of Professor Milton Friedman; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. BURNS, Mr. MILLER, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. CLINTON, Mrs. LANDRIEU, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. HELMS, and Mr. STEVENS):

S. Con. Res. 134. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress to designate the fourth Sunday of each September as "National Good Neighbor Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NICKLES (for himself, Mr. KYL, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BAYH, Mr. HAGEL, and Mrs. CARNAHAN):

S. Con. Res. 135. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding housing affordability and urging fair and expeditious review by international trade tribunals to ensure a competitive North American market for softwood lumber; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. BURNS):

S. Con. Res. 136. A concurrent resolution requesting the President to issue a proclamation in observance of the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MILLER:

S. Con. Res. 137. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service should exert its best efforts to cause the Major League Baseball Players Association and the owners of the teams of Major League Baseball to enter into a contract to continue to play professional baseball games without engaging in a strike, to lockout, or any conduct that interferes with the playing of scheduled professional baseball games; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 788

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 788, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a National Organ and Tissue Donor Registry that works in conjunction with State organ and tissue donor registries, to create a public-private partnership to launch an aggressive outreach and education campaign about organ and tissue donation and the Registry, and for other purposes.

S. 847

At the request of Mr. DAYTON, the names of the Senator from Vermont

(Mr. JEFFORDS) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) were added as cosponsors of S. 847, a bill to impose tariff-rate quotas on certain casein and milk protein concentrates.

S. 917

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 917, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income amounts received on account of claims based on certain unlawful discrimination and to allow income averaging for backpay and frontpay awards received on account of such claims, and for other purposes.

S. 1220

At the request of Mr. BREAUX, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1220, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to establish a grant program for the rehabilitation, preservation, or improvement of railroad track.

S. 1626

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1626, a bill to provide disadvantaged children with access to dental services.

S. 1777

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1777, a bill to authorize assistance for individuals with disabilities in foreign countries, including victims of landmines and other victims of civil strife and warfare, and for other purposes.

S. 1785

At the request of Mr. CLELAND, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1785, a bill to urge the President to establish the White House Commission on National Military Appreciation Month, and for other purposes.

S. 1867

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. HOLLINGS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1867, a bill to establish the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1877

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. HOLLINGS), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) were added as cosponsors of S. 1877, a bill to clarify and reaffirm a cause of action and Federal court jurisdiction for certain claims against the Government of Iran.

S. 1991

At the request of Mr. HOLLINGS, the name of the Senator from South Da-

kota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1991, to establish a national rail passenger transportation system, reauthorize Amtrak, improve security and service on Amtrak, and for other purposes.

S. 2055

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2055, a bill to make grants to train sexual assault nurse examiners, law enforcement personnel, and first responders in the handling of sexual assault cases, to establish minimum standards for forensic evidence collection kits, to carry out DNA analyses of samples from crime scenes, and for other purposes.

S. 2067

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2067, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to enhance the access of medicare beneficiaries who live in medically underserved areas to critical primary and preventive health care benefits, to improve the Medicare+Choice program, and for other purposes.

S. 2079

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 2079, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to facilitate and enhance judicial review of certain matters regarding veteran's benefits, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2079, supra.

S. 2189

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2189, a bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to remedy certain effects of injurious steel imports by protecting benefits of steel industry retirees and encouraging the strengthening of the American steel industry.

S. 2250

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2250, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to reduce the age for receipt of military retired pay for non-regular service from 60 to 55.

S. 2268

At the request of Mr. MILLER, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD), the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. THURMOND), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. BREAUX), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2268, a bill to amend the Act establishing the Department of Commerce to protect manufacturers

and sellers in the firearms and ammunition industry from restrictions on interstate or foreign commerce.

S. 2335

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2335, a bill to establish the Office of Native American Affairs within the Small Business Administration, to create the Native American Small Business Development Program, and for other purposes.

S. 2395

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 2395, a bill to prevent and punish counterfeiting and copyright piracy, and for other purposes.

S. 2425

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2425, a bill to prohibit United States assistance and commercial arms exports to countries and entities supporting international terrorism.

S. 2430

At the request of Mr. BREAUX, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2430, a bill to provide for parity in regulatory treatment of broadband services providers and of broadband access services providers, and for other purposes.

S. 2458

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2458, a bill to enhance United States diplomacy, and for other purposes.

S. 2521

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2521, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to restrict the application of the windfall elimination provision to individuals whose combined monthly income from benefits under such title and other monthly periodic payments exceeds \$2,000 and to provide for a graduated implementation of such provision on amounts above such \$2,000 amount.

S. 2529

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2529, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the medicare incentive payment program.

S. 2626

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2626, a bill to protect the public health by providing the Food and Drug Administration with certain authority to regulate tobacco products.

S. 2643

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2643, a bill to repeal the sunset of

the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 with respect to the expansion of the adoption credit and adoption assistance programs.

S. 2654

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2654, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income loan payments received under the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program established in the Public Health Service Act.

S. 2700

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2700, a bill to amend titles II and XVI of the Social Security Act to limit the amount of attorney assessments for representation of claimants and to extend the attorney fee payment system to claims under title XVI of that Act.

S. 2712

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2712, a bill to authorize economic and democratic development assistance for Afghanistan and to authorize military assistance for Afghanistan and certain other foreign countries.

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2712, *supra*.

S. 2714

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. TORRICELLI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2714, a bill to extend and expand the Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 2002.

S. 2715

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. TORRICELLI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2715, a bill to provide an additional extension of the period of availability of unemployment assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act in the case of victims of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

S. 2748

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2748, a bill to authorize the formulation of State and regional emergency telehealth network testbeds and, within the Department of Defense, a telehealth task force.

S. 2749

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2749, a bill to establish the Highlands Stewardship Area in the States of Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania, and for other purposes.

S. 2762

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2762, a bill to amend the Internal Rev-

enue Code of 1986 to provide involuntary conversion tax relief for producers forced to sell livestock due to weather-related conditions or Federal land management agency policy or action, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. THOMAS, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. CAMPBELL), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2762, *supra*.

S. 2770

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2770, a bill to amend the Federal Law Enforcement Pay Reform Act of 1990 to adjust the percentage differentials payable to Federal law enforcement officers in certain high-cost areas.

S. 2777

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2777, a bill to repeal the sunset of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 with respect to the treatment of qualified public educational facility bonds as exempt facility bonds.

S. 2790

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2790, a bill to provide lasting protection for inventoried roadless areas within the National Forest System.

S. 2794

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2794, a bill to establish a Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. GRAMM, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD), the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. CAMPBELL), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. FRIST), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS), the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. THURMOND), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. THOMAS), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SMITH), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. NICKLES), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT), the

Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2794, *supra*.

S. 2798

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2798, a bill to protect employees and retirees from corporate practices that deprive them of their earnings and retirement savings when a business files for bankruptcy under title 11, United States Code.

S. 2800

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2800, a bill to provide emergency disaster assistance to agricultural producers.

S. 2814

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2814, a bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to clarify the rates applicable to marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments for other oilseeds.

S. 2819

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2819, a bill to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to permit qualifying States to use a portion of their unspent allotments under the State children's health insurance program to expand health coverage under that program or for expenditures under the medicaid program, and for other purposes.

S. 2820

At the request of Mrs. CARNAHAN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2820, a bill to increase the priority dollar amount for unsecured claims, and for other purposes.

S. 2826

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CLELAND), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2826, a bill to improve the national instant criminal background check system, and for other purposes.

S. 2830

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) were added as cosponsors of S. 2830, a bill to provide emergency disaster assistance to agricultural producers.

S. CON. RES. 122

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr.

HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 122, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that security, reconciliation, and prosperity for all Cypriots can be best achieved within the context of membership in the European Union which will provide significant rights and obligations for all Cypriots, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 129

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. CAMPBELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 129, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the establishment of the month of November each year as "Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Awareness Month".

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2835. A bill to promote the development of health care cooperatives that will help businesses to pool the health care purchasing power of employers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today with my colleague from Maine to introduce legislation to help businesses form group-purchasing cooperatives to obtain enhanced benefits, to reduce health care rates, and to improve quality for their employees' health care.

High health care costs are burdening businesses and employees across the Nation. These costs are digging into profits and preventing access to affordable health care. Too many patients feel trapped by the system, with decisions about their health dictated by costs rather than by what they need.

This year has been the third year in a row of double-digit increases in health care costs. Companies will likely face average increases of 12 to 15 percent in 2003, on top of the 12.7 percent increase this year.

For some employers in Wisconsin, costs will rise much more sharply. A recent study found health care cost for businesses in southeastern Wisconsin were 55 percent higher than the Midwest average. While nationwide, the average health care premium for a family currently costs about \$588 per month, in Wisconsin an average family pays \$812 per month.

We must curb these rapidly-increasing health care premiums. I strongly support initiatives to ensure that everyone has access to health care. It is crucial that we support successful local initiatives to reduce health care premiums and to improve the quality of employees; health care.

By using group purchasing to obtain rate discounts, some employers have been able to reduce the cost of health care premiums for their employees. According to the National Business Coalition on Health, there are more than 90 employer-led coalitions across the

United States that collectively purchase health care. Through these pools, businesses are able to proactively challenge high costs and inefficient delivery of health care and share information on quality. These coalitions represent over 7,000 employers and approximately 34 million employees nationwide.

Improving the quality of health care will also lower the cost of care. By investing in the delivery of quality health care, we will be able to lower long term health care costs. Effective care, such as quality preventive services, can reduce overall health care expenditures. Health purchasing coalitions help promote these services and act as an employer forum for networking and education on health care cost containment strategies. They can help foster a dialogue with health care providers, insurers, and local HMOs.

Health care markets are local. Problems with cost, quality, and access to healthcare are felt most intensely in the local markets. Health care coalitions can function best when they are formed and implemented locally.

Local employers of large and small businesses have formed health care coalitions to track health care trends, create a demand for quality and safety, and encourage group purchasing.

In Wisconsin, there have been various successful initiatives that have formed health care purchasing cooperatives to improve quality of care and to reduce cost. For example, the Employer Health Care Alliance Cooperative, an employer-owned and employer-directed not-for-profit cooperative, has developed a network of health care providers in Dane County and 12 surrounding counties on behalf of its 170 member employers. Through this pooling effort, employers are able to obtain affordable, high-quality health care for their 110,000 employees and dependents.

This legislation seeks to build on successful local initiatives, such as The Alliance, that help businesses to join together to increase access to affordable and high-quality health care.

The Promoting Health Care Purchasing Cooperatives Act would authorize grants to a group of businesses so that they could form group-purchasing cooperatives to obtain enhanced benefits, reduce health care rates, and improve quality.

This legislation offers two separate grant programs to help different types of businesses pool their resources and bargaining power. Both programs would aid businesses to form cooperatives. The first program would help large businesses that sponsor their own health plans, while the second program would help small businesses that purchase their health insurance.

My bill would enable larger businesses to form cost-effective cooperatives that could offer quality health care through several ways. First, they could obtain health services through pooled purchasing from physicians, hospitals, home health agencies, and