

intensify programs with respect to research and related activities concerning elder falls; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mrs. CLINTON (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. KENNEDY, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. Res. 162. A resolution honoring tradeswomen; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TALENT:

S. Con. Res. 50. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that there should be established a National Truck Safety Month to raise public awareness about the contributions, responsibilities, and needs of truck drivers to make the Nation's highways safer; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. Con. Res. 51. A concurrent resolution commending Medgar Wiley Evers and his widow, Myrlie Evers-Williams for their lives and accomplishments, designating a Medgar Evers National Week of Remembrance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 98

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 98, a bill to amend the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, and the Revised Statutes of the United States, to prohibit financial holding companies and national banks from engaging, directly or indirectly, in real estate brokerage or real estate management activities, and for other purposes.

S. 202

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 202, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow as a deduction in determining adjusted gross income that 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. 253

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 253, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to exempt qualified current and former law enforcement officers from State laws prohibiting the carrying of concealed handguns.

S. 310

At the request of Mr. THOMAS, the name of the Senator from Vermont

(Mr. JEFFORDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 310, 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.

S. 349

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 349, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 374

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 374, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the occupational taxes relating to distilled spirits, wine, and beer.

S. 387

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 387, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend the eligibility periods for geriatric graduate medical education, to permit the expansion of medical residency training programs in geriatric medicine, to provide for reimbursement of care coordination and assessment services provided under the medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 392

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. HOLLINGS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 392, 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. 493

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. HOLLINGS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 493, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to authorize physical therapists to evaluate and treat medicare beneficiaries without a requirement for a physician referral, and for other purposes.

S. 504

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 504, a bill to establish academics for teachers and students of American history and civics and a national alliance of teachers of American history and civics, and for other purposes.

S. 518

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 518, a bill to increase the supply of pancreatic islet cells for research, to pro-

vide better coordination of Federal efforts and information on islet cell transplantation, and to collect the data necessary to move islet cell transplantation from an experimental procedure to a standard therapy.

S. 545

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 545, a bill to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to improve access and choice for entrepreneurs with small businesses with respect to medical care for their employees.

S. 564

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 564, 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. 583

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 583, a bill to require the provision of information to parents and adults concerning bacterial meningitis and the availability of a vaccination with respect to such disease.

S. 589

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 589, a bill to strengthen and improve the management of national security, encourage Government service in areas of critical national security, and to assist government agencies in addressing deficiencies in personnel possessing specialized skills important to national security and incorporating the goals and strategies for recruitment and retention for such skilled personnel into the strategic and performance management systems of Federal agencies.

S. 623

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 623, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.

S. 636

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 636, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a permanent increase in medicare payments for home health services that are furnished in rural areas.

S. 648

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 648, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to health professions programs regarding the practice of pharmacy.

S. 678

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 678, a bill to amend chapter 10 of title 39, United States Code, to include postmasters and postmasters organizations in the process for the development and planning of certain policies, schedules, and programs, and for other purposes.

S. 695

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) were added as cosponsors of S. 695, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the above-the-line deduction for teacher classroom supplies and to expand such deduction to include qualified professional development expenses.

S. 729

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 729, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a pilot program to encourage the use of medical savings accounts by public employees of the State of Minnesota and political jurisdictions thereof.

S. 852

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 852, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide limited TRICARE program eligibility for members of the Ready Reserve of the Armed Forces, to provide financial support for continuation of health insurance for mobilized members of reserve components of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 888

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. MILLER) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 888, a bill to reauthorize the Museum and Library Services Act, and for other purposes.

S. 890

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 890, a bill to amend the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide grants to State educational agencies to establish high cost funds from which local educational agencies are paid a percentage of the costs of providing a free appropriate public education to high need children and other high costs associated with educating children with disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 899

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. CHAFEE) were added as cosponsors of S. 899, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Secu-

rity Act to restore the full market basket percentage increase applied to payments to hospitals for inpatient hospital services furnished to medicare beneficiaries, and for other purposes.

S. 915

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE), and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 915, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008 for the Department of Energy Office of Science, to ensure that the United States is the world leader in key scientific fields by restoring a healthy balance of science funding, to ensure maximum use of the national user facilities, and to secure the Nation's supply of scientists for the 21st century, and for other purposes.

S. 926

At the request of Mr. VOINOVICH, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 926, a bill to amend section 5379 of title 5, United States Code, to increase the annual and aggregate limits on student loan repayments by Federal agencies.

S. 937

At the request of Mr. VOINOVICH, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 937, a bill to reauthorize the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998, and for other purposes.

S. 939

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 939, a bill to amend part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide full Federal funding of such part, to provide an exception to the local maintenance of effort requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 950

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 950, a bill to allow travel between the United States and Cuba.

S. 971

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 971, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide individuals with disabilities and older Americans with equal access to community-based attendant services and supports, and for other purposes.

S. 979

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 979, a bill to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to require enhanced disclosures of employee stock options, to require a study on the economic impact of broad-based employee stock option plans, and for other purposes.

S. 982

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 982, a bill to halt Syrian support for terrorism, end its occupation of Lebanon, stop its development of weapons of mass destruction, cease its illegal importation of Iraqi oil, and hold Syria accountable for its role in the Middle East, and for other purposes.

S. 988

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 988, a bill to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to provide for a job training grant pilot program.

S. 1046

At the request of Mr. HOLLINGS, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1046, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to preserve localism, to foster and promote the diversity of television programming, to foster and promote competition, and to prevent excessive concentration of ownership of the nation's television broadcast stations.

S. 1060

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1060, a bill to designate the visitors' center at Organ Piper Cactus National Monument, Arizona, as the "Kris Eggle Visitors' Center."

S. 1076

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1076, a bill to authorize construction of an education center at or near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

S. 1108

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1108, a bill to establish within the National Park Service the 225th Anniversary of the American Revolution Commemorative Program, and for other purposes.

S. 1120

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. CHAFEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1120, a bill to establish an Office of Trade Adjustment Assistance, and for other purposes.

S. 1121

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1121, a bill to extend certain trade benefits to countries of the greater Middle East.

S. 1127

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1127, a bill to establish administrative law judges involved in the appeals process provided for under the medicare program under title XVIII of the

Social Security Act within the Department of Health and Human Services, to ensure the independence of, and preserve the role of, such administrative law judges, and for other purposes.

S. 1182

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL), and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1182, a bill to sanction the ruling Burmese military junta, to strengthen Burma's democratic forces and support and recognize the National League of Democracy as the legitimate representative of the Burmese people, and for other purposes.

S. 1182

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1182, *supra*.

S. 1182

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1182, *supra*.

S. 1185

At the request of Mr. THOMAS, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1185, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act and the Public Health Service Act to improve outpatient health care for medicare beneficiaries who reside in rural areas, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 48

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 48, a concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of "National Epilepsy Awareness Month" and urging funding for epilepsy research and service programs.

S. RES. 159

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 159, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the June 2, 2003, ruling of the Federal Communications Commission weakening the Nation's media ownership rules is not in the public interest and should be rescinded.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BOND:

S. 1206. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for special treatment for certain drugs and biologicals under the prospective payment system for hospital outpatient department services under the medi-

care program; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, today I rise to introduce a bill that will ensure that cancer patients continue to have access to the treatment and care they desperately need in their communities.

In Missouri alone, the number of new cancer patients is estimated to reach almost 30,000 this year. For the Nation, we're talking well over 1.3 million. And the numbers continue to climb every year. These numbers are in addition to patients currently living with cancer. Many of them are surviving—and thriving—because of new tests, new treatments, and care they receive in community cancer centers across the country.

Many of these patients will turn to hospitals in their communities for life-saving treatment. Hospital outpatient departments are a critical part of the cancer care delivery system that provide a significant portion of the cancer care across the country.

However, this vital care is in jeopardy because this year, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS, has implemented drastic reductions in reimbursements for cancer services, including chemotherapy. These cuts are forcing cancer centers across the country to reconsider how they are providing care or accept reimbursement that fails to cover their costs.

I was recently contacted by Wes Thompson, Director of Radiology at Ray County Memorial Hospital in Richmond, MO. For those of you unfamiliar with Missouri, Richmond is a small town with a population of about 6,100 approximately 50 miles east of Kansas City. Ray County Memorial Hospital is the sole referral center for chemotherapy treatment for the rural residents outside of Kansas City.

In 1999, Wes' wife died of cancer at the age of 26. She happened to be a patient of the pharmacist, Robert Courtney, who has been convicted of diluting thousands of chemotherapy treatments for profit over the last several years. Wes will be receiving a monetary settlement from the legal proceeding involving Robert Courtney and he would like to donate it to the Ray County's oncology program in his wife's name. Unfortunately, cuts in reimbursements by Medicare for chemotherapy treatment will force Ray County Memorial Hospital to discontinue outpatient cancer treatment on January 1, 2004. And, that is devastating news to the community.

This is a department that treats over 250 patients a year across three counties. 60-70 percent of their patients are Medicare beneficiaries and about 40 percent of their patients are indigent. Many of these cancer patients would receive no care at all if Ray County Memorial closed the doors of the cancer program. And yet, that's exactly what they are considering. Their cancer program can't stay afloat when every chemotherapy treatment they give is reimbursed by Medicare at less

than their costs. There are a lot of expensive drugs involved in the treatment of cancer. The heavy dependence on drugs has a lot to do with why the cuts are devastating to cancer care in particular.

At Ray County Memorial, the first round of cuts last year meant that hospital overall took a loss of over \$150,000. This year's cuts will result in the loss of approximately \$200,000-\$300,000 for oncology services alone.

As of January 1 of next year 250 patients in rural Missouri will be forced to drive to Kansas City to receive cancer treatment. Oncologists at Ray County Memorial Hospital estimate that 40 percent of the patients they treat will be unable to make the trip to Kansas City area facilities to receive their treatment—either because they lack the transportation or the help to get there and back, or they are too sick or too weak to endure that trip. As a result of this cancer center closing, 80-100 people will die from cancer with no treatment and no hope. Of course Ray Memorial Hospital will continue to give these people loving care and try to make them as comfortable as possible, but they will be unable to treat their cancer anymore.

This is not a problem unique to Ray County Memorial Hospital. Due to cuts in Medicare reimbursement for cancer treatments hospitals across Missouri and across the county that provide outpatient cancer care—large or small, rural or urban—are struggling to continue to provide this care. These cancer centers work every day to ensure that the thousands of Americans diagnosed with cancer are receiving the best care possible.

I also have the privilege of representing Truman Medical Center, distinguished in its own way—for providing free care to so many. While Truman Medical Center sees only about 300-350 newly diagnosed cancer patients each year, about 70-75 percent of them are indigent. For these patients, they provide some 1,500-2,000 treatments of chemotherapy each year . . . and starting in January of this year, Medicare is reimbursing for many of these at levels dramatically below Truman's costs. And there are so many others.

In rural areas, where it is often hard to recruit physicians, it is the community cancer centers that provide all the chemotherapy and other services that help ensure that cancer patients don't have to travel long distances for the care they need. This is particularly important in cancer treatment, where life saving treatments often result in difficult side effects in the short term.

These cancer centers are also often the early adopters of some of the newest and most complicated drug regimens that cancer patients need today. And not only are they a "safety net" for rural patients, they are often the safety net for Medicaid and uninsured patients.

And yet, these are the very institutions that have been suffering under