

Special Report entitled "The 2004 Joint Economic Report" (Rept. No. 108-416).

### 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. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2995. A bill to permanently extend the income tax deduction for college tuition expenses; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 2996. A bill to provide for an additional place of holding court in the northern district of New York, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. 2997. A bill to amend section 1928 of the Social Security Act to encourage the production of influenza vaccines by eliminating the price cap applicable to the purchase of such vaccines under contracts entered into by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a tax credit to encourage vaccine production capacity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. 2998. A bill to promote the development of the emerging commercial human space flight industry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 2999. A bill for the relief of Heilit Martinez; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COLEMAN (for himself and Mr. FEINGOLD):

S. 3000. A bill to postpone the extension of normal trade relations to the products of Laos; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TALENT:

S. 3001. A bill entitled the "Hybrid HOV Access Act"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BOND (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 3002. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Defense to carry out a program to provide a support system for members of the Armed Forces who incur severe disabilities; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. ENSIGN):

S. 3003. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the City of Henderson, Nevada, certain Federal land located in the City, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER:

S. 3004. A bill to amend chapter 99 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify that certain coal industry health benefits may not be modified or terminated; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. JEFFORDS, and Mr. ROCKEFELLER):

S. 3005. A bill to allow State Homeland Security Program grant funds to be used to pay costs associated with the attendance of part-time and volunteer first responders at terrorism response courses approved by the Office for State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. GRAHAM of Florida:

S. 3006. A bill to amend the Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act of 1998; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 3007. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the founding of America's National Parks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. Res. 470. A resolution honoring the life of astronaut Leroy Gordon Cooper, Jr; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. Res. 471. A resolution authorizing the printing of tributes and other related materials in honor of the late Senator Paul Simon; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. HAGEL):

S. Res. 472. A resolution to honor the people of Georgia on the first anniversary of the Rose Revolution; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. SMITH, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina, Mr. HAGEL, and Mr. BIDEN):

S. Res. 473. A resolution urging the Government of Ukraine to ensure a democratic, transparent, and fair election process for the Presidential run-off election on November 21, 2004; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida:

S. Con. Res. 147. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the Department of Defense should continue to exercise its statutory authority to support the activities of the Boy Scouts of America, in particular the periodic national and world Boy Scout Jamborees; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BINGAMAN:

S. Con. Res. 148. A concurrent resolution honoring the life and contribution of Yogi Bhaajan, a leader of the Sikhs, and expressing condolences to the Sikh community on his passing; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HOLLINGS (for himself, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. LOTT, and Mr. BREAU):

S. Con. Res. 149. A concurrent resolution commending the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and its employees for its dedication and hard work during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne; considered and agreed to.

### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 282

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 282, a bill to amend the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 to require the Statistics Commissioner to collect information from coeducational secondary schools on such schools' athletic programs.

S. 2163

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2163, a bill to establish a national health program administered by the Office of Personnel Management to offer health benefits plans to indi-

viduals who are not Federal employees, and for other purposes.

S. 2395

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. CAMPBELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2395, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centenary of the bestowal of the Nobel Peace Prize on President Theodore Roosevelt, and for other purposes.

S. 2433

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2433, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow self-employed individuals to deduct health insurance costs in computing self-employment taxes.

S. 2553

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2553, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of screening ultrasound for abdominal aortic aneurysms under part B of the medicare program.

S. 2568

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) were added as cosponsors of S. 2568, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the tercentenary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin, and for other purposes.

S. 2613

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2613, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a scholarship and loan repayment program for public health preparedness workforce development to eliminate critical public health preparedness workforce shortages in Federal, State, and local public health agencies.

S. 2657

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2657, a bill to amend part III of title 5, United States Code, to provide for the establishment of programs under which supplemental dental and vision benefits are made available to Federal employees, retirees, and their dependents,

to expand the contracting authority of the Office of Personnel Management, and for other purposes.

S. 2889

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT), the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. HOLLINGS), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. BREAUX), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. FITZGERALD), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 2889, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins celebrating the recovery and restoration of the American bald eagle, the national symbol of the United States, to America's lands, waterways, and skies and the great importance of the designation of the American bald eagle as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and for other purposes.

S. 2978

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2978, a bill relating to State regulation of access to hunting and fishing.

S. RES. 269

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 269, a resolution urging the Government of Canada to end the commercial seal hunt that opened on November 15, 2003.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2995. A bill to permanently extend the income tax deduction for college tuition expenses; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask 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. 2995

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. PERMANENT EXTENSION OF TUITION DEDUCTION.

(a) REPEAL OF TERMINATION CLAUSE.—Section 222 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking subsection (e).

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to payments made in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2005.

(c) PROVISION MADE PERMANENT.—Title IX of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 (relating to sunset of provisions of such Act) shall not apply to section 431 of such Act.

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. 2997. A bill to amend section 1928 of the Social Security Act to encourage the production of influenza vaccines by eliminating the price cap applicable to the purchase of such vaccines under contracts entered into by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a tax credit to encourage vaccine production capacity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, there was a lot of hysteria a short time ago about the flu vaccine and the fact it was not available to a lot of people. There are several problems. One, the flu vaccine production currently takes approximately 6 months. I am introducing a bill that will expedite that and will have the sense of the Senate to steer the NIH research dollars toward the development of faster technology. They are using egg cultures to grow this vaccine when it can be done through the cells of silk moths. It will take more research to get there and we will encourage them to do that.

Second, the bill removes price controls for the purchasing of the flu vaccine. This happened during the Clinton administration. We should have learned during the Nixon administration that price controls in reality do not work. The result of this has been that we do not have many companies now that are willing to get in there and take the risk and develop and manufacture these vaccines. As soon as they do, they find out there is no profit at the other end because of price controls.

Lastly, we allow investment tax credits.

I have long been dedicated to quality healthcare for my constituents in Oklahoma and across America. I supported the Medicare bill of 2003 to give a voluntary prescription drug benefit to seniors. I have championed the rural health care providers, who received some of the greatest benefits of the Medicare bill. In 1997, I was one of few Republicans to vote against the Balanced Budget Act because of its lack of support for rural hospitals. Back then, I made a commitment to not allow our rural hospitals to be closed, and I am pleased we finally addressed that important issue in the Medicare legislation. I also cosponsored S. 816, the Health Care Access and Rural Equity Act, to protect and preserve access of Medicare beneficiaries to health care in rural regions.

I am a strong advocate of medical liability reform and am an original cosponsor of S. 11, the Patients First Act, to protect patients' access to quality and affordable health care by reducing the effects of excessive liability costs. There are solutions to alleviate the burden placed on physicians and pa-

tients by excessive medical malpractice lawsuits, and I am committed to this vital reform.

I have also worked with officials from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services to expand access to life-saving Implantable Cardiac Defibrillators. I supported legislation to increase the supply of pancreatic islet cells for research and cosponsored a bill to take the abortion pill RU-486 off the market in the United States.

The federal government invests in improving hospitals and healthcare initiatives, and I have fought hard to ensure that Oklahoma gets its fair share. Specifically, over the past three years, I have helped to secure \$5.2 million in funding for the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, the Oklahoma State Department of Health planning initiative for a rural telemedicine system, the INTEGRIS Healthcare System, the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology, St. Anthony's Heart Hospital, the Hillcrest Healthcare System, and the Morton Health Center.

The unexpected influenza, flu, vaccine shortage beginning last month highlights the need to encourage the production of flu vaccine in America. As you know, on October 5th, Chiron, a California-based biotechnology company, notified U.S. health officials that its plant in Liverpool, England had been shut down due to vaccine contamination. Almost 50,000 doses of flu vaccine were thrown away, which created a severe shortage for Americans just as the flu season began.

In light of the current shortage, I have examined why America found itself unable to accommodate the public demand for the flu vaccine. As we have seen, once a vaccine shortage strikes, a rapid response is difficult and often impossible. Thirty years ago, more than a dozen American companies were in the flu vaccine business. Today only two companies make the vaccine for America, and only one in an America-based company. This is no coincidence. High liability costs, tedious production, price caps, and the complicated United States tax code have kept the market bare.

In October, President Bush signed the JOBS bill, which curbed the billion-dollar lawsuits that have crippled the flu vaccine industry. By adding flu vaccine to the list of vaccines protected by the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, VICP, a no-fault alternative must be used for resolving vaccine injury claims. I am encouraged with this progress, but more can be done to prevent a shortage in the future.

My bill supports allocating a greater percentage of the National Institutes of Health budget to develop faster and safer vaccine production technology. The ever-changing nature of the flu virus results in a complicated production process. The dominant strain of the flu virus mutates each year, requiring a different vaccine for every flu