

more accessible for families and outdoor enthusiasts, it is important to note that this expansion will also promote the local economy. Outdoor recreation is more than an activity in the Northwest, it is also a key part of our economy. By improving access to the park, my bill will make it easier for visitors to enjoy the park and to purchase goods and services in nearby communities.

This expansion will ensure continued access to the park because the northwest entrance road is continually washed out by seasonal fluctuations of the glacier-fed Carbon River. The river, which now flows at a higher elevation than the roadbed, has blocked visitors from accessing the National Park Service's Ipsut Creek campground and nearby hiking trails inside the park. The repairs to this road have proven both costly and short-lived and have strained the National Park Service's already limited maintenance budget. In the long run, the expansion will save taxpayers money because the road will not have to be maintained to current standards. If this bill is enacted, the National Park Service plans to provide a shuttle service to take visitors to the Carbon Glacier trailhead. That way, visitors will still be able to hike to the Carbon Glacier during day trips.

If this bill is enacted, local conservation groups and the National Park Service will work to reach agreements with landowners in the proposed expansion area. I am pleased that the current landowners actively participated in the process and enthusiastically support this legislation. In fact, they are eager to sell their land to the National Park Service so that these lands will be permanently protected for the enjoyment of future generations.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate as well as other members of the Washington state congressional delegation to ensure swift passage of this important legislation.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 93—AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL BY THE JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON INAUGURAL CEREMONIES

Mr. LOTT (for himself and Mr. DODD) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 93

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF THE ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL BY THE JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON INAUGURAL CEREMONIES.

The rotunda of the United States Capitol is authorized to be used on January 20, 2005, by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies in connection with the proceedings and ceremonies conducted for the

inauguration of the President-elect and the Vice President-elect of the United States.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 94—ESTABLISHING THE JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON INAUGURAL CEREMONIES

Mr. LOTT (for himself and Mr. DODD) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 94

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT COMMITTEE.

There is established a Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies (in this resolution referred to as the "joint committee"), consisting of 3 Senators and 3 Members of the House of Representatives appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, respectively. The joint committee is authorized to make the necessary arrangements for the inauguration of the President-elect and the Vice President-elect of the United States.

SEC. 2. SUPPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE.

The joint committee—

(1) is authorized to utilize appropriate equipment and the services of appropriate personnel of departments and agencies of the Federal Government, under arrangements between the joint committee and the heads of the departments and agencies, in connection with the inaugural proceedings and ceremonies; and

(2) may accept gifts and donations of goods and services to carry out its responsibilities.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED & PROPOSED

SA 2619. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1805, to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages resulting from the misuse of their products by others.

SA 2620. Mrs. BOXER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1805, supra.

SA 2621. Mr. DASCHLE (for himself, Mr. CRAIG, and Mr. BAUCUS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1805, supra.

SA 2622. Mr. KOHL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2620 submitted by Mrs. BOXER to the bill S. 1805, supra.

SA 2623. Mr. HATCH (for Mr. CAMPBELL (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. REID, and Mrs. BOXER)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1805, supra.

SA 2624. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1805, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2625. Mr. CRAIG (for Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. CRAIG)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1805, supra.

SA 2626. Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1805, supra.

SA 2627. Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. CORZINE, and Mrs. CLINTON) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1805, supra.

SA 2628. Mr. CRAIG (for Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. CRAIG)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1805, supra.

SA 2629. Mr. CORZINE (for himself, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. CLINTON, and Mrs. BOXER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1805, supra.

SA 2630. Mr. CRAIG (for Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. CRAIG)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1805, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2619. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1805, to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages resulting from the misuse of their products by others; as follows:

On page 11, after line 19, add the following:

SEC. 5. ARMOR PIERCING AMMUNITION.

(a) EXPANSION OF DEFINITION OF ARMOR PIERCING AMMUNITION.—Section 921(a)(17)(B) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking "or" at the end;

(2) in clause (ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(iii) a projectile that may be used in a handgun and that the Attorney General determines, pursuant to section 926(d), to be capable of penetrating body armor; or

"(iv) a projectile for a centerfire rifle, designed or marketed as having armor piercing capability, that the Attorney General determines, pursuant to section 926(d), to be more likely to penetrate body armor than standard ammunition of the same caliber."

(b) DETERMINATION OF THE CAPABILITY OF PROJECTILES TO PENETRATE BODY ARMOR.—Section 926 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(d)(1) Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Attorney General shall promulgate standards for the uniform testing of projectiles against Body Armor Exemplar.

"(2) The standards promulgated pursuant to paragraph (1) shall take into account, among other factors, variations in performance that are related to the length of the barrel of the handgun or centerfire rifle from which the projectile is fired and the amount and kind of powder used to propel the projectile.

"(3) As used in paragraph (1), the term 'Body Armor Exemplar' means body armor that the Attorney General determines meets minimum standards for the protection of law enforcement officers."

SA 2620. Mrs. BOXER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1805, to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages resulting from the misuse of their products by others; as follows:

On page 11, after line 19, add the following:

SEC. 5. REQUIREMENT OF CHILD HANDGUN SAFETY DEVICES.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the "Child Safety Device Act of 2004".

(b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 921(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(36) The term 'locking device' means a device or locking mechanism that is approved by a licensed firearms manufacturer for use

on the handgun with which the device or locking mechanism is sold, delivered, or transferred and that—

“(A) if installed on a firearm and secured by means of a key or a mechanically, electronically, or electromechanically operated combination lock, is designed to prevent the firearm from being discharged without first deactivating or removing the device by means of a key or mechanically, electronically, or electromechanically operated combination lock;

“(B) if incorporated into the design of a firearm, is designed to prevent discharge of the firearm by any person who does not have access to the key or other device designed to unlock the mechanism and thereby allow discharge of the firearm; or

“(C) is a safe, gun safe, gun case, lock box, or other device that is designed to store a firearm and that is designed to be unlocked only by means of a key, a combination, or other similar means.”.

(c) UNLAWFUL ACTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 922 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(z) LOCKING DEVICES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under paragraph (2), it shall be unlawful for any licensed importer, licensed manufacturer, or licensed dealer to sell, deliver, or transfer any handgun to any person other than a licensed importer, licensed manufacturer, or licensed dealer, unless the transferee is provided with a locking device for that handgun.

“(2) EXCEPTIONS.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to—

“(A) the manufacture for, transfer to, or possession by, the United States, a department or agency of the United States, a State, or a department, agency, or political subdivision of a State, of a firearm;

“(B) transfer to, or possession by, a law enforcement officer employed by an entity referred to in subparagraph (A) of a firearm for law enforcement purposes (whether on or off duty); or

“(C) the transfer to, or possession by, a rail police officer employed by a rail carrier and certified or commissioned as a police officer under State law of a firearm for purposes of law enforcement (whether on or off duty).”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 922(z) of title 18, United States Code, as added by this subsection, shall take effect on the date which is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) CIVIL PENALTIES.—Section 924 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “or (f)” and inserting “(f), or (p)”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(p) PENALTIES RELATING TO LOCKING DEVICES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF LICENSE; CIVIL PENALTIES.—With respect to each violation of section 922(z)(1) by a licensee, the Attorney General shall, after notice and opportunity for hearing—

“(i) suspend or revoke any license issued to the licensee under this chapter;

“(ii) subject the licensee to a civil penalty of not more than \$15,000; or

“(iii) impose the penalties described in clauses (i) and (ii).

“(B) REVIEW.—An action by the Attorney General under this paragraph may be reviewed only as provided under section 923(f).

“(2) ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES.—The suspension or revocation of a license or the imposition of a civil penalty under paragraph (1) does not preclude any administrative remedy that is otherwise available to the Attorney General.”.

(e) AMENDMENT TO CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY ACT.—The Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2051 et seq.), is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 39. CHILD HANDGUN SAFETY DEVICES.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARD.—

“(1) RULEMAKING REQUIRED.—

“(A) INITIATION OF RULEMAKING.—Notwithstanding section 3(a)(1)(E), the Commission shall initiate a rulemaking proceeding under section 553 of title 5, United States Code, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the Child Safety Device Act of 2004 to establish a consumer product safety standard for locking devices. The Commission may extend this 90-day period for good cause.

“(B) FINAL RULE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Commission shall promulgate a final consumer product safety standard under this paragraph not later than 12 months after the date on which the Commission initiated the rulemaking proceeding under subparagraph (A). The Commission may extend this 12-month period for good cause.

“(C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The consumer product safety standard promulgated under this paragraph shall take effect on the date which is 6 months after the date on which the final standard is promulgated.

“(D) STANDARD REQUIREMENTS.—The standard promulgated under this paragraph shall require locking devices that—

“(i) are sufficiently difficult for children to deactivate or remove; and

“(ii) prevent the discharge of the handgun unless the locking device has been deactivated or removed.

“(2) INAPPLICABLE PROVISIONS.—

“(A) PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT.—Sections 7, 9, and 30(d) shall not apply to the rulemaking proceeding described under paragraph (1). Section 11 shall not apply to any consumer product safety standard promulgated under paragraph (1).

“(B) CHAPTER 5 OF TITLE 5.—Chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, except for section 553 of that title, shall not apply to this section.

“(C) CHAPTER 6 OF TITLE 5.—Chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code, shall not apply to this section.

“(b) ENFORCEMENT.—Notwithstanding subsection (a)(2)(A), the consumer product safety standard promulgated by the Commission pursuant to subsection (a) shall be enforced under this Act as if it were a consumer product safety standard described under section 7(a).

“(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions shall apply:

“(1) CHILD.—The term ‘child’ means an individual who has not attained the age of 13 years.

“(2) LOCKING DEVICE.—The term ‘locking device’ has the meaning given that term in clauses (i) and (iii) of section 921(a)(36) of title 18, United States Code.”.

(f) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1 of the Consumer Product Safety Act is amended by adding at the end of the table of contents the following:

“Sec. 39. Child handgun safety devices.”.

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Consumer Product Safety Commission \$2,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2005 through 2007 to carry out the provisions of section 39 of the Consumer Product Safety Act, as added by subsection (e).

(2) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Any amounts appropriated pursuant to paragraph (1) shall remain available until expended.

SA 2621. Mr. DASCHLE (for himself, Mr. CRAIG, and Mr. BAUCUS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1805, to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages resulting from the misuse of their products by others; as follows:

On page 7, line 19, strike “including” and all that follows through page 8, line 19, and insert “including, but not limited to—

“(I) any case in which the manufacturer or seller knowingly made any false entry in, or failed to make appropriate entry in, any record which such person is required to keep pursuant to State or Federal law, or aided, abetted or conspired with any person in making any false or fictitious oral or written statement with respect to any fact material to the lawfulness of the sale or other disposition of a qualified product; or

“(II) any case in which the manufacturer or seller aided, abetted, or conspired with any other person to sell or otherwise dispose of a qualified product, knowing or having reasonable cause to believe that the actual buyer of the qualified product was prohibited from possessing or receiving a firearm or ammunition under subsection (g) or (n) of section 922 of title 18, United States Code;”.

On page 9, lines 1 and 2, strike “or in a manner that is reasonably foreseeable” and insert “, or when used in a manner that is reasonably foreseeable, except that such reasonably foreseeable use shall not include any criminal or unlawful misuse of a qualified product, other than possessory offenses.”.

On page 9, strike lines 12 through 21, and insert the following:

(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The exceptions enumerated under clauses (i) through (v) of subparagraph (A) are intended to be construed to not be in conflict, and no provision of this Act shall be construed to create a Federal private cause of action or remedy.

On page 10, strike lines 13 through 18, and insert the following:

(C) a person engaged in the business of selling ammunition (as defined under section 921(a)(17)(A) of title 18, United States Code) in interstate or foreign commerce at the wholesale or retail level, who is in compliance with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws.

On page 11, line 7, strike the semicolon and insert “; and”.

On page 11, strike lines 8 through 15, and insert the following:

(B) 2 or more members of which are manufacturers or sellers of a qualified product, and that is involved in promoting the business interests of its members, including organizing, advising, or representing its members with respect to their business, legislative, or legal activities in relation to the manufacture, importation, or sale of a qualified product.

On page 11, strike lines 16 through 19, and insert the following:

(9) UNLAWFUL MISUSE.—The term “unlawful misuse” means conduct that violates a statute, ordinance, or regulation as it relates to the use of a qualified product.

SA 2622. Mr. KOHL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2620 submitted by Mrs. BOXER to the bill S.

1805, to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages resulting from the misuse of their products by others; as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted, insert the following:

TITLE II—CHILD SAFETY LOCKS

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Child Safety Lock Act of 2004”.

SEC. 202. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this title are—

(1) to promote the safe storage and use of handguns by consumers;

(2) to prevent unauthorized persons from gaining access to or use of a handgun, including children who may not be in possession of a handgun; and

(3) to avoid hindering industry from supplying firearms to law abiding citizens for all lawful purposes, including hunting, self-defense, collecting, and competitive or recreational shooting.

SEC. 203. FIREARMS SAFETY.

(A) UNLAWFUL ACTS.—

(1) MANDATORY TRANSFER OF SECURE GUN STORAGE OR SAFETY DEVICE.—Section 922 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting at the end the following:

“(z) SECURE GUN STORAGE OR SAFETY DEVICE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under paragraph (2), it shall be unlawful for any licensed importer, licensed manufacturer, or licensed dealer to sell, deliver, or transfer any handgun to any person other than any person licensed under this chapter, unless the transferee is provided with a secure gun storage or safety device (as defined in section 921(a)(34)) for that handgun.

“(2) EXCEPTIONS.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to—

“(A)(i) the manufacture for, transfer to, or possession by, the United States, a department or agency of the United States, a State, or a department, agency, or political subdivision of a State, of a handgun; or

“(ii) the transfer to, or possession by, a law enforcement officer employed by an entity referred to in clause (i) of a handgun for law enforcement purposes (whether on or off duty); or

“(B) the transfer to, or possession by, a rail police officer employed by a rail carrier and certified or commissioned as a police officer under the laws of a State of a handgun for purposes of law enforcement (whether on or off duty);

“(C) the transfer to any person of a handgun listed as a curio or relic by the Secretary pursuant to section 921(a)(13); or

“(D) the transfer to any person of a handgun for which a secure gun storage or safety device is temporarily unavailable for the reasons described in the exceptions stated in section 923(e), if the licensed manufacturer, licensed importer, or licensed dealer delivers to the transferee within 10 calendar days from the date of the delivery of the handgun to the transferee a secure gun storage or safety device for the handgun.

“(3) LIABILITY FOR USE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person who has lawful possession and control of a handgun, and who uses a secure gun storage or safety device with the handgun, shall be entitled to immunity from a qualified civil liability action.

“(B) PROSPECTIVE ACTIONS.—A qualified civil liability action may not be brought in any Federal or State court.

“(C) DEFINED TERM.—As used in this paragraph, the term ‘qualified civil liability action’—

“(i) means a civil action brought by any person against a person described in subparagraph (A) for damages resulting from the criminal or unlawful misuse of the handgun by a third party, if—

“(I) the handgun was accessed by another person who did not have the permission or authorization of the person having lawful possession and control of the handgun to have access to it; and

“(II) at the time access was gained by the person not so authorized, the handgun had been made inoperable by use of a secure gun storage or safety device; and

“(ii) shall not include an action brought against the person having lawful possession and control of the handgun for negligent entrustment or negligence per se.”.

(b) CIVIL PENALTIES.—Section 924 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “or (f)” and inserting “(f), or (p)”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(p) PENALTIES RELATING TO SECURE GUN STORAGE OR SAFETY DEVICE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF LICENSE; CIVIL PENALTIES.—With respect to each violation of section 922(z)(1) by a licensed manufacturer, licensed importer, or licensed dealer, the Secretary may, after notice and opportunity for hearing—

“(i) suspend for not more than 6 months, or revoke, the license issued to the licensee under this chapter that was used to conduct the firearms transfer; or

“(ii) subject the licensee to a civil penalty in an amount equal to not more than \$2,500.

“(B) REVIEW.—An action of the Secretary under this paragraph may be reviewed only as provided under section 923(f).

“(2) ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES.—The suspension or revocation of a license or the imposition of a civil penalty under paragraph (1) shall not preclude any administrative remedy that is otherwise available to the Secretary.”.

(c) LIABILITY; EVIDENCE.—

(1) LIABILITY.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to—

(A) create a cause of action against any Federal firearms licensee or any other person for any civil liability; or

(B) establish any standard of care.

(2) EVIDENCE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, evidence regarding compliance or noncompliance with the amendments made by this title shall not be admissible as evidence in any proceeding of any court, agency, board, or other entity, except with respect to an action relating to section 922(z) of title 18, United States Code, as added by this section.

(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to bar a governmental action to impose a penalty under section 924(p) of title 18, United States Code, for a failure to comply with section 922(z) of that title.

SEC. 204. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This title and the amendments made by this title shall take effect 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 2623. Mr. HATCH (for Mr. CAMPBELL (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. REID, and Mrs. BOXER)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1805, to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition

for damages resulting from the misuse of their products by others; as follows:

On page 11, after line 19, add the following:

SEC. 5. LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS SAFETY ACT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Steve Young Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act”.

(b) EXEMPTION OF QUALIFIED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS FROM STATE LAWS PROHIBITING THE CARRYING OF CONCEALED FIREARMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 926A the following:

“§ 926B. Carrying of concealed firearms by qualified law enforcement officers

“(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of the law of any State or any political subdivision thereof, an individual who is a qualified law enforcement officer and who is carrying the identification required by subsection (d) may carry a concealed firearm that has been shipped or transported in interstate or foreign commerce, subject to subsection (b).

“(b) This section shall not be construed to supersede or limit the laws of any State that—

“(1) permit private persons or entities to prohibit or restrict the possession of concealed firearms on their property; or

“(2) prohibit or restrict the possession of firearms on any State or local government property, installation, building, base, or park.

“(c) As used in this section, the term ‘qualified law enforcement officer’ means an employee of a governmental agency who—

“(1) is authorized by law to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of, or the incarceration of any person for, any violation of law, and has statutory powers of arrest;

“(2) is authorized by the agency to carry a firearm;

“(3) is not the subject of any disciplinary action by the agency;

“(4) meets standards, if any, established by the agency which require the employee to regularly qualify in the use of a firearm; and

“(5) is not prohibited by Federal law from receiving a firearm.

“(d) The identification required by this subsection is the photographic identification issued by the governmental agency for which the individual is, or was, employed as a law enforcement officer.

“(e) DEFINED TERM.—As used in this section, the term ‘firearm’ does not include—

“(1) any machinegun (as defined in section 5845 of title 26);

“(2) any firearm silencer (as defined in section 921); and

“(3) any destructive device (as defined in section 921).”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 926A the following:

“926B. Carrying of concealed firearms by qualified law enforcement officers.”.

(c) EXEMPTION OF QUALIFIED RETIRED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS FROM STATE LAWS PROHIBITING THE CARRYING OF CONCEALED FIREARMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 926B, as added by subsection (b), the following:

§ 926C. Carrying of concealed firearms by qualified retired law enforcement officers

“(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of the law of any State or any political subdivision thereof, an individual who is a qualified retired law enforcement officer and who is carrying the identification required by subsection (d) may carry a concealed firearm that has been shipped or transported in interstate or foreign commerce, subject to subsection (b).

“(b) This section shall not be construed to supersede or limit the laws of any State that—

“(1) permit private persons or entities to prohibit or restrict the possession of concealed firearms on their property; or

“(2) prohibit or restrict the possession of firearms on any State or local government property, installation, building, base, or park.

“(c) As used in this section, the term ‘qualified retired law enforcement officer’ means an individual who—

“(1) retired in good standing from service with a public agency as a law enforcement officer, other than for reasons of mental instability;

“(2) before such retirement, was authorized by law to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of, or the incarceration of any person for, any violation of law, and had statutory powers of arrest;

“(3)(A) before such retirement, was regularly employed as a law enforcement officer for an aggregate of 15 years or more; or

“(B) retired from service with such agency, after completing any applicable probationary period of such service, due to a service-connected disability, as determined by such agency;

“(4) has a nonforfeitable right to benefits under the retirement plan of the agency;

“(5) during the most recent 12-month period, has met, at the expense of the individual, the State’s standards for training and qualification for active law enforcement officers to carry firearms; and

“(6) is not prohibited by Federal law from receiving a firearm.

“(d) The identification required by this subsection is photographic identification issued by the agency for which the individual was employed as a law enforcement officer.

“(e) DEFINED TERM.—As used in this section, the term ‘firearm’ does not include—

“(1) any machinegun (as defined in section 5845 of title 26);

“(2) any firearm silencer (as defined in section 921); and

“(3) a destructive device (as defined in section 921).”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 926B the following:

“926C. Carrying of concealed firearms by qualified retired law enforcement officers.”.

SA 2624. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1805, to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages resulting from the misuse of their products by others; which was ordered to lie on the table as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

TITLE —MEDICAL LIABILITY REFORM
SEC. 01. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Protecting the Practice of Medicine Act”.

SEC. 02. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION SYSTEM; ADR.—The term “alternative dispute resolution system” or “ADR” means a system that provides for the resolution of health care lawsuits in a manner other than through a civil action brought in a State or Federal court.

(2) CLAIMANT.—The term “claimant” means any person who brings a health care lawsuit, including a person who asserts or claims a right to legal or equitable contribution, indemnity or subrogation, arising out of a health care liability claim or action, and any person on whose behalf such a claim is asserted or such an action is brought, whether deceased, incompetent, or a minor.

(3) COLLATERAL SOURCE BENEFITS.—The term “collateral source benefits” means any amount paid or reasonably likely to be paid in the future to or on behalf of the claimant, or any service, product or other benefit provided or reasonably likely to be provided in the future to or on behalf of the claimant, as a result of the injury or wrongful death, pursuant to—

(A) any State or Federal health, sickness, income-disability, accident, or workers’ compensation law;

(B) any health, sickness, income-disability, or accident insurance that provides health benefits or income-disability coverage;

(C) any contract or agreement of any group, organization, partnership, or corporation to provide, pay for, or reimburse the cost of medical, hospital, dental, or income disability benefits; and

(D) any other publicly or privately funded program.

(4) COMPENSATORY DAMAGES.—The term “compensatory damages” means objectively verifiable monetary losses incurred as a result of the provision of, use of, or payment for (or failure to provide, use, or pay for) health care services or medical products, such as past and future medical expenses, loss of past and future earnings, cost of obtaining domestic services, loss of employment, and loss of business or employment opportunities, damages for physical and emotional pain, suffering, inconvenience, physical impairment, mental anguish, disfigurement, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of society and companionship, loss of consortium (other than loss of domestic service), hedonic damages, injury to reputation, and all other nonpecuniary losses of any kind or nature. Such term includes economic damages and noneconomic damages, as such terms are defined in this section.

(5) CONTINGENT FEE.—The term “contingent fee” includes all compensation to any person or persons which is payable only if a recovery is effected on behalf of one or more claimants.

(6) ECONOMIC DAMAGES.—The term “economic damages” means objectively verifiable monetary losses incurred as a result of the provision of, use of, or payment for (or failure to provide, use, or pay for) health care services or medical products, such as past and future medical expenses, loss of past and future earnings, cost of obtaining domestic services, loss of employment, and loss of business or employment opportunities.

(7) HEALTH CARE LAWSUIT.—The term “health care lawsuit” means any health care liability claim concerning the provision of health care goods or services affecting interstate commerce, or any health care liability action concerning the provision of (or the failure to provide) health care goods or services affecting interstate commerce, brought in a State or Federal court or pursuant to an alternative dispute resolution system, against a health care provider, regardless of

the theory of liability on which the claim is based, or the number of claimants, plaintiffs, defendants, or other parties, or the number of claims or causes of action, in which the claimant alleges a health care liability claim.

(8) HEALTH CARE LIABILITY ACTION.—The term “health care liability action” means a civil action brought in a State or Federal Court or pursuant to an alternative dispute resolution system, against a health care provider, regardless of the theory of liability on which the claim is based, or the number of plaintiffs, defendants, or other parties, or the number of causes of action, in which the claimant alleges a health care liability claim.

(9) HEALTH CARE LIABILITY CLAIM.—The term “health care liability claim” means a demand by any person, whether or not pursuant to ADR, against a health care provider, regardless of the theory of liability on which the claim is based, or the number of plaintiffs, defendants, or other parties, or the number of causes of action.

(10) HEALTH CARE PROVIDER.—The term “health care provider” means any person or entity required by State or Federal laws or regulations to be licensed, registered, or certified to provide health care services, and being either so licensed, registered, or certified, or exempted from such requirement by other statute or regulation.

(11) HEALTH CARE GOODS OR SERVICES.—The term “health care goods or services” means any goods or services provided by a health care provider or by any individual working under the supervision of a health care provider, that relates to the diagnosis, prevention, care, or treatment of any human disease or impairment, or the assessment of the health of human beings.

(12) MALICIOUS INTENT TO INJURE.—The term “malicious intent to injure” means intentionally causing or attempting to cause physical injury other than providing health care goods or services.

(13) NONECONOMIC DAMAGES.—The term “noneconomic damages” means damages for physical and emotional pain, suffering, inconvenience, physical impairment, mental anguish, disfigurement, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of society and companionship, loss of consortium (other than loss of domestic service), hedonic damages, injury to reputation, and all other nonpecuniary losses of any kind or nature.

(14) PUNITIVE DAMAGES.—The term “punitive damages” means damages awarded, for the purpose of punishment or deterrence, and not solely for compensatory purposes, against a health care provider. Punitive damages are neither economic nor noneconomic damages.

(15) RECOVERY.—The term “recovery” means the net sum recovered after deducting any disbursements or costs incurred in connection with prosecution or settlement of the claim, including all costs paid or advanced by any person. Costs of health care incurred by the plaintiff and the attorneys’ office overhead costs or charges for legal services are not deductible disbursements or costs for such purpose.

(16) STATE.—The term “State” means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and any other territory or possession of the United States, or any political subdivision thereof.

SEC. 03. ENCOURAGING SPEEDY RESOLUTION OF CLAIMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided for in this section, the time for the commencement of a health care lawsuit

shall be 3 years after the date of manifestation of injury or 1 year after the claimant discovers, or through the use of reasonable diligence should have discovered, the injury, whichever occurs first.

(b) **GENERAL EXCEPTION.**—The time for the commencement of a health care lawsuit shall not exceed 3 years after the date of manifestation of injury unless the tolling of time was delayed as a result of—

- (1) fraud;
 - (2) intentional concealment; or
 - (3) the presence of a foreign body, which has no therapeutic or diagnostic purpose or effect, in the person of the injured person.
- (c) **MINORS.**—An action by a minor shall be commenced within 3 years from the date of the alleged manifestation of injury except that if such minor is under the full age of 6 years, such action shall be commenced within 3 years of the manifestation of injury, or prior to the eighth birthday of the minor, whichever provides a longer period. Such time limitation shall be tolled for minors for any period during which a parent or guardian and a health care provider have committed fraud or collusion in the failure to bring an action on behalf of the injured minor.

SEC. 04. COMPENSATING PATIENT INJURY.

(a) **UNLIMITED AMOUNT OF DAMAGES FOR ACTUAL ECONOMIC LOSSES IN HEALTH CARE LAWSUITS.**—In any health care lawsuit, nothing in this title shall limit the recovery by a claimant of the full amount of the available economic damages, notwithstanding the limitation contained in subsection (b).

(b) **ADDITIONAL NONECONOMIC DAMAGES.**—In any health care lawsuit, the amount of noneconomic damages recovered, if otherwise available under applicable Federal or State law, may be as much as \$250,000, regardless of the number of parties against whom the action is brought or the number of separate claims or actions brought with respect to the same occurrence.

(c) **NO DISCOUNT OF AWARD FOR NONECONOMIC DAMAGES.**—In any health care lawsuit—

- (1) an award for future noneconomic damages shall not be discounted to present value;
- (2) the jury shall not be informed about the maximum award for noneconomic damages under subsection (b);
- (3) an award for noneconomic damages in excess of \$250,000 shall be reduced either before the entry of judgment, or by amendment of the judgment after entry of judgment, and such reduction shall be made before accounting for any other reduction in damages required by law; and
- (4) if separate awards are rendered for past and future noneconomic damages and the combined awards exceed \$250,000, the future noneconomic damages shall be reduced first.

(d) **FAIR SHARE RULE.**—In any health care lawsuit, each party shall be liable for that party's several share of any damages only and not for the share of any other person. Each party shall be liable only for the amount of damages allocated to such party in direct proportion to such party's percentage of responsibility. A separate judgment shall be rendered against each such party for the amount allocated to such party. For purposes of this section, the trier of fact shall determine the proportion of responsibility of each party for the claimant's harm.

SEC. 05. MAXIMIZING PATIENT RECOVERY.

(a) **COURT SUPERVISION OF SHARE OF DAMAGES ACTUALLY PAID TO CLAIMANTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In any health care lawsuit, the court shall supervise the arrangements for payment of damages to protect against conflicts of interest that may have the effect of reducing the amount of damages awarded that are actually paid to claimants.

(2) CONTINGENCY FEES.—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In any health care lawsuit in which the attorney for a party claims a financial stake in the outcome by virtue of a contingent fee, the court shall have the power to restrict the payment of a claimant's damage recovery to such attorney, and to redirect such damages to the claimant based upon the interests of justice and principles of equity.

(B) **LIMITATION.**—The total of all contingent fees for representing all claimants in a health care lawsuit shall not exceed the following limits:

- (i) 40 percent of the first \$50,000 recovered by the claimant(s).
- (ii) 33½ percent of the next \$50,000 recovered by the claimant(s).
- (iii) 25 percent of the next \$500,000 recovered by the claimant(s).
- (iv) 15 percent of any amount by which the recovery by the claimant(s) is in excess of \$600,000.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The limitations in subsection (a) shall apply whether the recovery is by judgment, settlement, mediation, arbitration, or any other form of alternative dispute resolution.

(2) **MINORS.**—In a health care lawsuit involving a minor or incompetent person, a court retains the authority to authorize or approve a fee that is less than the maximum permitted under this section.

(c) EXPERT WITNESSES.—

(1) **REQUIREMENT.**—No individual shall be qualified to testify as an expert witness concerning issues of negligence in any health care lawsuit against a defendant unless such individual—

(A) except as required under paragraph (2), is a health care professional who—

- (i) is appropriately credentialed or licensed in 1 or more States to deliver health care services; and
- (ii) typically treats the diagnosis or condition or provides the type of treatment under review; and

(B) can demonstrate by competent evidence that, as a result of training, education, knowledge, and experience in the evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment of the disease or injury which is the subject matter of the lawsuit against the defendant, the individual was substantially familiar with applicable standards of care and practice as they relate to the act or omission which is the subject of the lawsuit on the date of the incident.

(2) **PHYSICIAN REVIEW.**—In a health care lawsuit, if the claim of the plaintiff involved treatment that is recommended or provided by a physician (allopathic or osteopathic), an individual shall not be qualified to be an expert witness under this subsection with respect to issues of negligence concerning such treatment unless such individual is a physician.

(3) **SPECIALTIES AND SUBSPECIALTIES.**—With respect to a lawsuit described in paragraph (1), a court shall not permit an expert in one medical specialty or subspecialty to testify against a defendant in another medical specialty or subspecialty unless, in addition to a showing of substantial familiarity in accordance with paragraph (1)(B), there is a showing that the standards of care and practice in the two specialty or subspecialty fields are similar.

(4) **LIMITATION.**—The limitations in this subsection shall not apply to expert witnesses testifying as to the degree or permanency of medical or physical impairment.

SEC. 06. ADDITIONAL HEALTH BENEFITS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The amount of any damages received by a claimant in any health care lawsuit shall be reduced by the court by the amount of any collateral source benefits

to which the claimant is entitled, less any insurance premiums or other payments made by the claimant (or by the spouse, parent, child, or legal guardian of the claimant) to obtain or secure such benefits.

(b) **PRESERVATION OF CURRENT LAW.**—Where a payor of collateral source benefits has a right of recovery by reimbursement or subrogation and such right is permitted under Federal or State law, subsection (a) shall not apply.

(c) **APPLICATION OF PROVISION.**—This section shall apply to any health care lawsuit that is settled or resolved by a fact finder.

SEC. 07. PUNITIVE DAMAGES.

(a) **PUNITIVE DAMAGES PERMITTED.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Punitive damages may, if otherwise available under applicable State or Federal law, be awarded against any person in a health care lawsuit only if it is proven by clear and convincing evidence that such person acted with malicious intent to injure the claimant, or that such person deliberately failed to avoid unnecessary injury that such person knew the claimant was substantially certain to suffer.

(2) **FILING OF LAWSUIT.**—No demand for punitive damages shall be included in a health care lawsuit as initially filed. A court may allow a claimant to file an amended pleading for punitive damages only upon a motion by the claimant and after a finding by the court, upon review of supporting and opposing affidavits or after a hearing, after weighing the evidence, that the claimant has established by a substantial probability that the claimant will prevail on the claim for punitive damages.

(3) **SEPARATE PROCEEDING.**—At the request of any party in a health care lawsuit, the trier of fact shall consider in a separate proceeding—

- (A) whether punitive damages are to be awarded and the amount of such award; and
- (B) the amount of punitive damages following a determination of punitive liability.

If a separate proceeding is requested, evidence relevant only to the claim for punitive damages, as determined by applicable State law, shall be inadmissible in any proceeding to determine whether compensatory damages are to be awarded.

(4) **LIMITATION WHERE NO COMPENSATORY DAMAGES ARE AWARDED.**—In any health care lawsuit where no judgment for compensatory damages is rendered against a person, no punitive damages may be awarded with respect to the claim in such lawsuit against such person.

(b) **DETERMINING AMOUNT OF PUNITIVE DAMAGES.**—

(1) **FACTORS CONSIDERED.**—In determining the amount of punitive damages under this section, the trier of fact shall consider only the following:

- (A) the severity of the harm caused by the conduct of such party;
- (B) the duration of the conduct or any concealment of it by such party;
- (C) the profitability of the conduct to such party;
- (D) the number of products sold or medical procedures rendered for compensation, as the case may be, by such party, of the kind causing the harm complained of by the claimant;
- (E) any criminal penalties imposed on such party, as a result of the conduct complained of by the claimant; and
- (F) the amount of any civil fines assessed against such party as a result of the conduct complained of by the claimant.

(2) **MAXIMUM AWARD.**—The amount of punitive damages awarded in a health care lawsuit may not exceed an amount equal to two times the amount of economic damages awarded in the lawsuit or \$250,000, whichever is greater. The jury shall not be informed of the limitation under the preceding sentence.

SEC. 08. AUTHORIZATION OF PAYMENT OF FUTURE DAMAGES TO CLAIMANTS IN HEALTH CARE LAWSUITS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In any health care lawsuit, if an award of future damages, without reduction to present value, equaling or exceeding \$50,000 is made against a party with sufficient insurance or other assets to fund a periodic payment of such a judgment, the court shall, at the request of any party, enter a judgment ordering that the future damages be paid by periodic payments in accordance with the Uniform Periodic Payment of Judgments Act promulgated by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws.

(b) **APPLICABILITY.**—This section applies to all actions which have not been first set for trial or retrial before the effective date of this title.

SEC. 09. EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.

(a) **VACCINE INJURY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—To the extent that title XXI of the Public Health Service Act establishes a Federal rule of law applicable to a civil action brought for a vaccine-related injury or death—

(A) this title shall not affect the application of the rule of law to such an action; and

(B) any rule of law prescribed by this title in conflict with a rule of law of such title XXI shall not apply to such action.

(2) **EXCEPTION.**—If there is an aspect of a civil action brought for a vaccine-related injury or death to which a Federal rule of law under title XXI of the Public Health Service Act does not apply, then this title or otherwise applicable law (as determined under this title) will apply to such aspect of such action.

(b) **OTHER FEDERAL LAW.**—Except as provided in this section, nothing in this title shall be deemed to affect any defense available to a defendant in a health care lawsuit or action under any other provision of Federal law.

SEC. 10. STATE FLEXIBILITY AND PROTECTION OF STATES' RIGHTS.

(a) **HEALTH CARE LAWSUITS.**—The provisions governing health care lawsuits set forth in this title shall preempt, subject to subsections (b) and (c), State law to the extent that State law prevents the application of any provisions of law established by or under this title. The provisions governing health care lawsuits set forth in this title supersede chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code, to the extent that such chapter—

(1) provides for a greater amount of damages or contingent fees, a longer period in which a health care lawsuit may be commenced, or a reduced applicability or scope of periodic payment of future damages, than provided in this title; or

(2) prohibits the introduction of evidence regarding collateral source benefits.

(b) **PREEMPTION OF CERTAIN STATE LAWS.**—The provisions of this title shall preempt any constitutional provision, statute, or rule of State law, whether enacted prior to, on, or after the date of enactment of this Act, that—

(1) prohibits the application of any limitation on the amount of compensatory, punitive, or total damages in a health care lawsuit; or

(2) provides for a greater amount of compensatory, punitive, or total damages in a health care lawsuit than those provided for under this title.

(c) **PROTECTION OF STATE'S RIGHTS AND OTHER LAWS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Any issue that is not governed by a provision of law established by or under this title (including the State standards of negligence) shall be governed by otherwise applicable Federal or State law.

(2) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this title shall be construed to—

(A) preempt or supersede any Federal or State law that imposes greater procedural or substantive protections for a health care provider from liability, loss, or damages than those provided by this title;

(B) notwithstanding any other provision of this section, preempt or supercede any State law that provides for a specific monetary limit on total damages (including compensatory damages) that may be awarded in a health care lawsuit regardless of whether such monetary limit is greater or lesser than is provided for under this title;

(C) create a cause of action that is not otherwise available under Federal or State law; or

(D) affect the scope of preemption of any other Federal law.

SEC. 11. APPLICABILITY; EFFECTIVE DATE.

This title shall apply to any health care lawsuit brought in a Federal or State court, or subject to an alternative dispute resolution system, that is initiated on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, except that any health care lawsuit arising from an injury occurring prior to the date of enactment of this Act shall be governed by the applicable statute of limitations provisions in effect at the time the injury occurred.

SA 2625. Mr. CRAIG (for Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. CRAIG)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1805, to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages resulting from the misuse of their products by others; as follows:

At the appropriate place, add the following:

SEC. 5. ARMOR PIERCING AMMUNITION.

(a) **UNLAWFUL ACTS.**—Section 922(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraphs (7) and (8) and inserting the following:

“(7) for any person to manufacture or import armor piercing ammunition, unless—

“(A) the manufacture of such ammunition is for the use of the United States, any department or agency of the United States, any State, or any department, agency, or political subdivision of a State;

“(B) the manufacture of such ammunition is for the purpose of exportation; or

“(C) the manufacture or importation of such ammunition is for the purpose of testing or experimentation and has been authorized by the Attorney General.

“(8) for any manufacturer or importer to sell or deliver armor piercing ammunition, unless such sale or delivery—

“(A) is for the use of the United States, any department or agency of the United States, any State, or any department, agency, or political subdivision of a State;

“(B) is for the purpose of exportation; or

“(C) is for the purpose of testing or experimentation and has been authorized by the Attorney General.”.

(b) **PENALTIES.**—Section 924(c) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) Except to the extent that a greater minimum sentence is otherwise provided under this subsection, or by any other provision of law, any person who, during and in relation to any crime of violence or drug trafficking crime (including a crime of violence or drug trafficking crime that provides for an enhanced punishment if committed by the use of a deadly or dangerous weapon or device) for which the person may be prosecuted in a court of the United States, uses or carries armor piercing ammunition, or who, in furtherance of any such crime, pos-

sesses armor piercing ammunition, shall, in addition to the punishment provided for such crime of violence or drug trafficking crime or conviction under this section—

“(A) be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not less than 15 years;

“(B) if death results from the use of such ammunition—

“(i) if the killing is murder (as defined in section 1111), be punished by death or sentenced to a term of imprisonment for any term of years or for life; and

“(ii) if the killing is manslaughter (as defined in section 1112), be punished as provided in section 1112.”.

(c) **STUDY AND REPORT.**—

(1) **STUDY.**—The Attorney General shall conduct a study to determine whether a uniform standard for the uniform testing of projectiles against Body Armor is feasible.

(2) **ISSUES TO BE STUDIED.**—The study conducted under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) variations in performance that are related to the length of the barrel of the handgun or centerfire rifle from which the projectile is fired; and

(B) the amount of powder used to propel the projectile.

(3) **REPORT.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall submit a report containing the results of the study conducted under this subsection to—

(A) the chairman and ranking member of the Judiciary Committee of the Senate; and

(B) the chairman and ranking member of the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives.

SA 2626. Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1805, to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages resulting from the misuse of their products by others; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. . MAKING THE PROVISIONS OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965 PERMANENT.

(a) **PERMANENCY OF PRECLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS.**—Section 4(a)(8) of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 1973a(a)(8)) is amended to read as follows:

“(8) The provisions of this section shall not expire.”.

(b) **PERMANENCY OF BILINGUAL ELECTION REQUIREMENTS.**—Section 203(b)(1) of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 1973aa-1a(b)(1)) is amended by striking “Before August 6, 2007, no covered State” and insert “No covered State”.

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 2627. Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. CORZINE, and Mrs. CLINTON) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1805, to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages resulting from the misuse of their products by others; as follows:

On page 8, line 22, strike “or”.

On page 9, line 2, strike the period and insert “; or”.

On page 9, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

“(vi) an action involving a shooting victim of John Allen Muhammad or Lee Boyd Malvo.”.

SA 2628. Mr. CRAIG (for Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. CRAIG)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1805, to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages resulting from the misuse of their products by others; as follows:

On page 8, line 22, strike "or".

On page 9, line 2, strike the period at the end and insert "; or".

On page 9, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

(vi) an action involving a shooting victim of John Allen Muhammad or John Lee Malvo that meets 1 of the requirements under clauses (i) through (v).

SA 2629. Mr. CORZINE (for himself, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. CLINTON, and Mrs. BOXER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1805, to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages resulting from the misuse of their products by others; as follows:

On page 11, after line 19, insert the following:

SEC. 5. LAW ENFORCEMENT EXCEPTION.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, nothing in this Act shall be construed as limiting the right of an officer or employee of any Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency to recover damages authorized under Federal or State law.

SA 2630. Mr. CRAIG (for Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. CRAIG)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1805, to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages resulting from the misuse of their products by others; as follows:

On page 9, between lines 21 and 22, insert the following:

(E) LAW ENFORCEMENT EXCEPTION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit the right of an officer or employee of any Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency to recover damages authorized under Federal or State law in a civil action that meets 1 of the requirements under clauses (i) through (v) of subparagraph (A).

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the following hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

The hearing will be held on Thursday, March 4th, at 10 a.m. in Room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of the hearing is to review the Energy Information Administration (EIA) Annual Energy Outlook 2004 report regarding the supply, demand and price projections for oil, nat-

ural gas, nuclear, coal and renewable resources, focusing on oil and natural gas. In addition, commercial and market perspectives on the state of oil and natural gas markets will be considered.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, SD-364, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510-6150.

For further information, please contact Lisa Epifani at 202-224-5269 or Shane Perkins at 202-224-7555.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 26, 2004, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing on the nominations of the Hon. Alphonso R. Jackson, of Texas, to be Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development; the Hon. Linda Mysliwy Conlin, of New Jersey, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States; and Ms. Rhonda Keenum, of Mississippi, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Director General of the United States and Foreign Commercial Services.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 26, 2004, at 2 p.m. to conduct a hearing on "Review of Current Investigations and Regulatory Actions Regarding the Mutual Fund Industry."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday February 26 at 2:30 p.m. to receive testimony on the nomination of Susan Johnson Grant to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the

Senate on Thursday, February 26 at 9:30 a.m. to hold a hearing on Public Diplomacy and International Free Press.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 26 at 2:30 p.m. to hold a hearing on Libya—Next Steps in U.S. Relations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR AND PENSIONS

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet for a hearing on "Higher Education Accreditation: How Can the System Better Ensure Quality and Accountability?" during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 26, 2004 at 2 p.m. in SD-430.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a markup on Thursday, February 26, 2004, at 9:30 a.m. in Dirksen Senate Building 226.

Agenda:

1. Nominations:

Henry W. Saad to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, William James Haynes II to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, Raymond W. Gruender to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit, Franklin S. Van Antwerpen to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, Judith C. Herrera to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico, F. Dennis Saylor to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, Sandra L. Townes to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, Louis Guirola, Jr. to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Mississippi, Virginia E. Hopkins to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama, Kenneth M. Karas to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, Richard S. Martinez to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington, Gene E.K. Pratter to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Neil Vincent Wake to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, Michele M. Leonhart to be Deputy Administrator of Drug Enforcement, Domingo S. Herraiz to be Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance, United States Department of Justice.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the