

By Mr. CAMPBELL (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 2196. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify that per diem payments by the Department of Veterans Affairs for the care of veterans in state homes shall not be used to offset payments that are made under the medicaid program for the purpose of assisting veterans; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. STEVENS):

S. 2197. A bill to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to clarify the status of certain communities in the western Alaska community development quota program; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 2198. A bill to provide for refinancing of consolidated student loans; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. FEINGOLD, and Mrs. LINCOLN):

S. 2199. A bill to authorize the Attorney General to make grants to improve the ability of State and local governments to prevent the abduction of children by family members, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 2200. A bill to extend nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to the products of Laos; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 2201. A bill to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to provide for secondary containment to prevent methyl tertiary butyl ether and petroleum contamination; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. FEINGOLD, and Mrs. LINCOLN):

S. 2202. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to give district courts of the United States jurisdiction over competing State custody determinations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CORZINE:

S. 2203. A bill to provide assistance to combat HIV/AIDS in India, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. CORNYN, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 2204. A bill to provide criminal penalties for false information and hoaxes relating to terrorism; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEVIN:

S. 2205. A bill to authorize the extension of unconditional and permanent nondiscriminatory treatment (permanent normal trade relations treatment) to the products of Ukraine, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BUNNING:

S. 2206. A bill to provide enhanced Pell Grants for State Scholars; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SHELBY:

S.J. Res. 29. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States which requires (except during time of war and subject to suspension by the Congress) that the total amount of money expended by the United States during any fiscal year not exceed the amount of certain revenue received by the United States during such fiscal year and not exceed 20 per centum of the gross national product of the United States during the previous calendar year; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself and Mr. CORZINE):

S. Res. 318. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that a postage stamp should be issued in commemoration of Diwali, a festival celebrated by people of Indian origin; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURNS, Mr. BYRD, Mr. CAMPBELL, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COLEMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DODD, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. GRAHAM of Florida, Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDREU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MILLER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. REID, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SMITH, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. TALENT, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 319. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to the deadly terrorist attacks against the people of Spain that occurred on March 11, 2004; considered and agreed to.

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

S. Con. Res. 98. A concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 480

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 480, a bill to provide competitive grants for training court reporters and closed captioners to meet requirements for realtime writers under the Telecommunications Act of 1996, and for other purposes.

S. 489

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 489, a bill to expand certain preferential trade treatment for Haiti.

S. 846

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 846, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction for premiums on mortgage insurance, and for other purposes.

S. 976

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 976, a bill to provide for the issuance of a coin to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the Jamestown settlement.

S. 1103

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1103, a bill to clarify the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to prescribe performance standards for the reduction of pathogens in meat, meat products, poultry, and poultry products processed by establishments receiving inspection services and to enforce the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) System requirements, sanitation requirements, and the performance standards.

S. 1115

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1115, a bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to reduce the health risks posed by asbestos-containing products.

S. 1223

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. CHAFEE) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1223, a bill to increase the number of well-trained mental health service professionals (including those based in schools) providing clinical mental health care to children and adolescents, and for other purposes.

S. 1292

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1292, a bill to establish a servitude and emancipation archival research clearinghouse in the National Archives.

S. 1411

At the request of Mr. SARBANES, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1411, a bill to establish a National Housing Trust Fund in the Treasury of the United States to provide for the development of decent, safe, and affordable housing for low-income families, and for other purposes.

S. 1645

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1645, a bill to provide for the adjustment of status of certain foreign agricultural workers, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to reform the H-2A worker program under that

Act, to provide a stable, legal agricultural workforce, to extend basic legal protections and better working conditions to more workers, and for other purposes.

S. 1888

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1888, a bill to halt Saudi support for institutions that fund, train, incite, encourage, or in any other way aid and abet terrorism, and to secure full Saudi cooperation in the investigation of terrorist incidents.

S. 1909

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1909, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve stroke prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation.

S. 1916

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 1916, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to increase the minimum Survivor Benefit Plan basic annuity for surviving spouses age 62 and older, to provide for a one-year open season under that plan, and for other purposes.

S. 1948

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1948, a bill to provide that service of the members of the organization known as the United States Cadet Nurse Corps during World War II constituted active military service for purposes of laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

S. 2035

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2035, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to revise the age and service requirements for eligibility to receive retired pay for non-regular service; to expand certain authorities to provide health care benefits for Reserves and their families, and for other purposes.

S. 2077

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2077, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to permit additional States to enter into long-term care partnerships under the Medicaid Program in order to promote the use of long-term care insurance.

S. 2089

At the request of Mr. CHAMBLISS, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2089, a bill to allow aliens who are eligible for diversity visas to be eligible beyond the fiscal year in which they applied.

S. 2099

At the request of Mr. MILLER, the names of the Senator from Minnesota

(Mr. COLEMAN) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 2099, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide entitlement to educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill for members of the Selected Reserve who aggregate more than 2 years of active duty service in any five year period, and for other purposes.

S. 2100

At the request of Mr. MILLER, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 2100, a bill to amend title 10 United States Code, to increase the amounts of educational assistance for members of the Selected Reserve, and for other purposes.

S. 2152

At the request of Mr. MILLER, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2152, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide eligibility for reduced non-regular service military retired pay before age 60, and for other purposes.

S. 2172

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2172, a bill to make technical amendments to the provisions of the Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act relating to contract support costs, and for other purposes.

S. 2173

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2173, a bill to further the purposes of the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site Establishment Act of 2000.

S. 2179

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2179, a bill to posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Reverend Oliver L. Brown.

S. 2186

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) were added as cosponsors of S. 2186, a bill to temporarily extend the programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, through May 15, 2004, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2186, *supra*.

S. 2193

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) were added as cosponsors of S. 2193, a bill to improve small business loan programs, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 28

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. HOLLINGS), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 28, a joint resolution recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Allied landing at Normandy during World War II.

S. CON. RES. 90

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. BREAUX) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 90, a concurrent resolution expressing the Sense of the Congress regarding negotiating, in the United States-Thailand Free Trade Agreement, access to the United States automobile industry.

S. RES. 298

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 298, a resolution designating May 2004 as "National Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month".

S. RES. 311

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 311, a resolution calling on the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to immediately and unconditionally release Father Thadeus Nguyen Van Ly, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2695

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2695 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 95, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2005 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2006 through 2009.

AMENDMENT NO. 2697

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2697 proposed to S. Con. Res. 95, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2005 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2006 through 2009.

AMENDMENT NO. 2699

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2699 proposed to S. Con. Res. 95, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2005 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2006 through 2009.

## AMENDMENT NO. 2703

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2703 proposed to S. Con. Res. 95, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2005 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2006 through 2009.

## AMENDMENT NO. 2708

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. McCain), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2708 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 95, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2005 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2006 through 2009.

## AMENDMENT NO. 2709

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2709 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 95, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2005 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2006 through 2009.

## AMENDMENT NO. 2712

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2712 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 95, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2005 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2006 through 2009.

## AMENDMENT NO. 2715

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2715 proposed to S. Con. Res. 95, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2005 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2006 through 2009.

## AMENDMENT NO. 2717

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2717 proposed to S. Con. Res. 95, an original concurrent

resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2005 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2006 through 2009.

## AMENDMENT NO. 2725

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2725 proposed to S. Con. Res. 95, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2005 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2006 through 2009.

## AMENDMENT NO. 2733

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), the Senator from Florida (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2733 proposed to S. Con. Res. 95, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2005 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2006 through 2009.

## AMENDMENT NO. 2734

At the request of Mr. REID, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2734 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 95, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2005 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2006 through 2009.

## AMENDMENT NO. 2740

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2740 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 95, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2005 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2006 through 2009.

## AMENDMENT NO. 2741

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2741 proposed to S. Con. Res. 95, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2005 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2006 through 2009.

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of

amendment No. 2741 proposed to S. Con. Res. 95, supra.

## AMENDMENT NO. 2743

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2743 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 95, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2005 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2006 through 2009.

## AMENDMENT NO. 2753

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2753 proposed to S. Con. Res. 95, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2005 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2006 through 2009.

## AMENDMENT NO. 2761

At the request of Mr. DODD, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2761 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 95, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2005 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2006 through 2009.

## AMENDMENT NO. 2762

At the request of Mr. DODD, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2762 proposed to S. Con. Res. 95, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2005 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2006 through 2009.

## AMENDMENT NO. 2769

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2769 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 95, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2005 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2006 through 2009.

## AMENDMENT NO. 2773

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2773 intended to be proposed

to S. Con. Res. 95, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2005 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2006 through 2009.

## AMENDMENT NO. 2774

At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2774 proposed to S. Con. Res. 95, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2005 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2006 through 2009.

## AMENDMENT NO. 2780

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2780 proposed to S. Con. Res. 95, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2005 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2006 through 2009.

## AMENDMENT NO. 2782

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2782 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 95, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2005 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2006 through 2009.

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 2194. A bill to amend part D of title IV of the Social Security Act to improve the collection of child support, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a bill that is very close to my heart—the Child Support Improvement Act of 2004. I want to express my appreciation for the leadership of the Senator from Connecticut on these issues, and his willingness to co-sponsor this bill.

In my career, I have had the opportunity to see the significant problems facing our child support system from several different perspectives.

As a district judge in Texas, I ruled in divorce and custody cases. I saw the powerful emotions involved in these cases, where the best interests of children are fought over even as the relationships that brought them into this world fall apart.

And I had to make judgments in a large number of child support cases be-

fore Texas implemented the system for expediting these cases by establishing the masters program.

As a Supreme Court justice, I had the opportunity to write opinions that had a real and positive affect on child support.

As Attorney General, I saw the positive effects of enforced guidelines for child support, visitation, and income withholding. I worked to implement Federal mandates. And I saw that we had a deep hole to climb out of, a child support system that was in terrible shape.

My first priority was to improve customer service. I saw that more than \$16 million in child support payments were collected but undistributed due to computer errors, leaving those most in need of assistance without their child support payments merely because of computer or administrative problems.

And the vast majority of the people calling the child support offices for assistance were automatically disconnected or received a busy signal. Only one in every seven phone calls was actually answered—one in seven.

We got to work fast. We focused on both the dead beat and the dead broke parents. We fixed the customer service system, establishing eight regional call centers and an interactive web site to provide case-specific information on a secure site for parents to access. We worked with community organizations to establish a dozen fatherhood programs. We got payments out the door more quickly, and we reduced undistributed collections. And I announced a top ten list of "Texas' Most Wanted Child Support Evaders," those dead beat parents who willfully evaded arrest.

In the end, we collected more than \$3 billion in child support. Some folks called it a miracle. I call it a good start.

I believe that this body has the responsibility to do more to help our child support system be more efficient, more responsive, and do more to improve the lives of children and families.

The proposal that I am introducing today, along with the distinguished Senator from Connecticut—who has a deep understanding of the issue and, like me, served his State as attorney general—features several long-needed reforms of our child support provisions. It includes new distribution options for states to get more child support to families on TANF, and to pay more child support to families who were previously on TANF.

This bill also has several provisions based on my experience as Attorney General: 1. It encourages States to do more medical support enforcement, by giving states a funding incentive that will ultimately reduce our Federal Medicaid and S-CHIP costs. 2. It promotes early monitoring of child support orders, cutting red tape so that states have greater freedom to innovate and large arrearages never occur. 3. It focuses on reducing undistributed

collections by directing more Federal resources toward finding solutions to this widespread problem. 4. It gets payments to custodial parents quickly, by urging States to use electronic payment methods. 5. And it allows States the option to send all non-IV-D child support payments to the State Disbursement Unit, reducing expenses, paperwork and confusion for employers and accelerating payments to families.

I believe that all of these reforms are necessary and important steps. They will lower costs, increase efficiency, and get children more of the help they need.

Even as we strive to improve our child support system, we cannot underestimate the social importance of the family as a component of our mission. As author Maggie Gallagher once wrote: "When men and women fail to form stable marriages, the first result is a vast expansion of government attempts to cope with the terrible social needs that result. There is scarcely a dollar that state and federal government spends on social programs that is not driven in large part by family fragmentation: crime, poverty, drug abuse, teen pregnancy, school failure, and mental and physical health problems."

I strongly believe that the family is the fundamental institution of our civilization. It fosters successful communities, happier homes, and healthier lives.

The family provides the foundation for raising each new generation of Americans. And when families are weakened, children suffer the most. Even the best child support system in the world cannot give the caring love and nurturing of family—which is why I believe we need to have a child support system that genuinely encourages parents to be an active part of their child's life.

We need a child support system that focuses on the dead beat and dead broke parents, that brings the worst evaders in, and that puts the family first. Let us in this body strive to do everything we can, as we hope for a brighter future for this nation and future generations of American children.

By Mr. CAMPBELL (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 2196. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify that per diem payments by the Department of Veterans Affairs for the care of Veterans in State homes shall not be used to offset payments that are made under the medicaid program for the purpose of assisting veterans; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, today I am pleased to be joined by my colleagues Senators COLLINS and SNOWE to introduce legislation which will rectify a very serious problem affecting veterans in my State and around the Nation. The bill I am introducing will clarify the treatment of the per diem payments made by the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, to