

EC-5991. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Definition of Agent for Certain Purposes" (RIN1545-AY94) received on January 13, 2004; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5992. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Administrative, Procedural, and Miscellaneous" (Rev. Proc. 2004-13) received on January 13, 2004; to the Committee on Finance.

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EC-5995. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Republication of Rev. Proc. 2003-6" (Rev. Proc. 2004-6) received on January 13, 2004; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5996. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Republication of Rev. Proc. 2003-5" received on January 13, 2004; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5997. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Improper to Proper Depreciation Changes" (Rev. Proc. 2004-11) received on January 13, 2004; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5998. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rulings and Determination Letters" (Rev. Proc. 2004-7) received on January 13, 2004; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5999. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Republication of Rev. Proc. 2003-8" (Rev. Proc. 2003-8) received on January 13, 2004; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6000. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes in Computing Depreciation" (RIN1545-BC17) received on January 13, 2004; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6001. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Section 42 Carryover and Stacking Rule Amendments" (RIN1545-BA85) received on January 13, 2004; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6002. A communication from the Regulations Officer, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Old-Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled; Video Teleconferencing Appeal" (RIN0960-AE97) received on January 13, 2004; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6003. A communication from the Chairman, Medicare Payment Advisory, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to outpatient dialysis payment rates; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6004. A communication, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled

"Medical Devices: Classification of the Dental Sonography Device and Jaw Tracking Device" (Doc. No. 200N-0305) received on January 13, 2004; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6005. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to increasing health care to non-elderly, low-income populations; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6006. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Administrator for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Interim Final Rule on Head Start Transportation" (RIN097-AC16) received on January 20, 2004; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6007. A communication from the President, Midwestern Higher Education Compact, transmitting, the report of a resolution regarding the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. COLLINS, from the Committee on Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 129. A bill to provide for reform relating to Federal employment, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 108-223).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. DODD, and Mr. LOTT):

S. 2031. A bill to authorize the States to implement such mechanisms as are necessary in a time of national crisis to ensure the continuity of the Senate in the event that a quorum of the Senate is not present due to the inability of members of the Senate to discharge the powers and duties of their office; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 2032. A bill to provide assistance and security for women and children in Afghanistan and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. DOMENICI (for himself and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. 2033. A bill to designate the Federal building located at Fifth and Richardson Avenues in Roswell, New Mexico, as the "Joe Skeen Federal Building"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. DODD):

S. Res. 292. A resolution designating the week beginning February 2, 2004, as "National School Counseling Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 664

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 664, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the research credit, to increase the rates of the alternative incremental credit, and to provide an alternative simplified credit for qualified research expenses.

S. 846

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) 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. 910

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 910, a bill to ensure the continuation of non-homeland security functions of Federal agencies transferred to the Department of Homeland Security.

S. 1035

At the request of Mr. CORZINE, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1035, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to reduce the age for receipt of military retired pay for non-regular service from 60 to 55.

S. 1189

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1189, a bill to ensure an appropriate balance between resources and accountability under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

S. 1245

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1245, a bill to provide for homeland security grant coordination and simplification, and for other purposes.

S. 1326

At the request of Mr. VOINOVICH, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1326, a bill to establish the position of Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Manufacturing in the Department of Commerce.

S. 1354

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1354, a bill to resolve certain conveyances and provide for alternative land selections under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act related to Cape Fox Corporation and Sealaska Corporation, and for other purposes.

S. 1398

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1398, a bill to provide for the environmental restoration of the Great Lakes.

S. 1457

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. BREAU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1457, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the rate of tax on distilled spirits to its pre-1985 level.

S. 1568

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. NICKLES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1568, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify certain provisions applicable to real estate investment trusts.

S. 1703

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1703, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit against income tax for expenditures for the maintenance of railroad tracks of Class II and Class III railroads.

S. 1706

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1706, a bill to improve the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, and for other purposes.

S. 1786

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1786, a bill to revise and extend the Community Services Block Grant Act, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981, and the Assets for Independence Act.

S. 1888

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) 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. 1948

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) 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. 1961

At the request of Mr. HOLLINGS, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1961, a bill to provide for the revitalization and enhancement of the American passenger and freight rail transportation system.

S. 1986

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1986, a bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to re-

quire voter verification and improved security for voting systems under title III of the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2006

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2006, a bill to extend and expand the Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 2003, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 2032. A bill to provide assistance and security for women and children in Afghanistan and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, yesterday was an important and historic day for Afghanistan. President Hamid Karzai signed a new constitution that guarantees the equal rights of all Afghans, including women.

Given the terrible hardship women and girls in Afghanistan faced during the years of war, drought and the draconian policies of the Taliban, this new constitution is an important step forward.

However, yesterday's victory will be sort-lived if the constitution is not implemented and women continue to suffer from discrimination and violence, and are denied access to health care, education and job training.

The biggest challenge facing women today is a lack of basic security. Human Rights Watch reported earlier this month that:

women and girls bear some of the worst effects of Afghanistan's insecurity. Conditions are generally better than under the Taliban, but women and girls continue to face severe governmental and social discrimination. Those who organize protests or criticize local rulers face threats and violence. Soldiers and police routinely harass women and girls, even in Kabul city. Many women and girls are afraid to remove the burqa. Because soldiers are targeting women and girls, many are staying indoors, especially in rural areas, making it impossible for them to attend school, go to work, or actively participate in the country's reconstruction.

Today, I am introducing legislation that will ensure that women and children are able to thrive in a post-Taliban Afghanistan.

This legislation authorizes \$300 million each year to provide assistance to Afghan women and children with four specific goals. First, the bill seeks to enhance the political and human rights of women by providing assistance to help them exercise property, inheritance and voting rights and to enforce provisions in the new constitution that ensure equal rights for women.

Second, the bill provides funding for health care, including assistance to reduce maternal and infant mortality and to train midwives, nurses and traditional birth attendants.

Third, funding is authorized to be used for education and training, including expanding schools for women and

girls, technical and vocational training and literacy programs.

Finally, the bill addresses the issue of security by providing programs to prevent the trafficking of women and girls, support the return of refugees, and provide general security to prevent violent attacks against schools. The bill also calls for an expansion of international peacekeeping forces throughout the country.

We have heard many times that failure is not an option in Afghanistan. Passage of this legislation will go a long way to ensure the success of a democratic and peaceful nation.

By Mr. DOMENICI (for himself and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. 2033. A bill to designate the Federal building located at Fifth and Richardson Avenues in Roswell, New Mexico, as the "Joe Skeen Federal Building"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a bill to rename the Federal building in Roswell, NM, after my dear friend, Representative Joe Skeen. On December 7, 2003, Joe lost his valiant battle with Parkinson's Disease. He will be deeply missed.

I first met Joe more than 40 years ago when I was fresh out of law school and Joe was a rising star within the New Mexico Republican party. From that moment, I knew that Joe was destined for great things. To the great benefit of the people of the State of New Mexico and the Nation, Joe chose to dedicate his life to public service.

For those of us who knew Joe, it came as no surprise when he became only the third person in our Nation's history to win a U.S. House seat as a write-in candidate in 1980. During his 22 year tenure as New Mexico's representative for the 2nd Congressional District, Joe was a powerful voice for the people of his district and its rural lifestyle. For instance, he was a staunch defender of New Mexico's farming and ranching interests.

Many have described Joe as one of the most powerful members of Congress that New Mexico ever sent to Washington, DC. But Joe never forgot who he was and where he was from. He was part and parcel of this land and its people. Joe truly represented the people of the 2nd Congressional District, both politically and in spirit.

Joe sought committee assignments that would most benefit the largely rural district that he represented. During his time in the U.S. Congress, Joe served 17 years on the House Appropriations Committee, serving as Chairman of both the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee and the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee.

In 2002 Joe retired from Congress. After 11 terms in Congress, Joe decided to return to his ranch, a place that he described as being "at the center of my upbringing and which shaped my character and principles in life." I feel truly blessed to have had the honor to