

By Mr. ENSIGN (for himself, Mr.

SANTORUM, and Mr. LEVIN):

S. Res. 251. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the President should ensure that Federal response and recovery efforts for Hurricane Katrina include consideration for animal rescue and care; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 191

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 191, a bill to extend certain trade preferences to certain least-developed countries, and for other purposes.

S. 484

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 484, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.

S. 555

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 555, a bill to amend the Sherman Act to make oil-producing and exporting cartels illegal.

S. 602

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 602, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to fund breakthroughs in Alzheimer's disease research while providing more help to caregivers and increasing public education about prevention.

S. 635

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) were added as cosponsors of S. 635, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the benefits under the medicare program for beneficiaries with kidney disease, and for other purposes.

S. 889

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 889, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require phased increases in the fuel efficiency standards applicable to light trucks, to require fuel economy standards for automobiles up to 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight, to increase the fuel economy of the Federal fleet of vehicles, and for other purposes.

S. 1081

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1081, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a minimum update for physicians' services for 2006 and 2007.

S. 1112

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1112, a bill to make permanent the enhanced educational savings provisions for qualified tuition programs enacted as part of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001.

S. 1172

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1172, a bill to provide for programs to increase the awareness and knowledge of women and health care providers with respect to gynecologic cancers.

S. 1197

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. TALENT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1197, a bill to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994.

S. 1269

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1269, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify certain activities the conduct of which does not require a permit.

S. 1272

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1272, a bill to amend title 46, United States Code, and title II of the Social Security Act to provide benefits to certain individuals who served in the United States merchant marine (including the Army Transport Service and the Naval Transport Service) during World War II.

S. 1319

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1319, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the operation of employee stock ownership plans, and for other purposes.

S. 1360

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1360, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion from gross income for employer-provided health coverage to designated plan beneficiaries of employees, and for other purposes.

S. 1403

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1403, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend reasonable cost contracts under medicare.

S. 1418

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1418, a bill to enhance the adoption of a nationwide interoperable health in-

formation technology system and to improve the quality and reduce the costs of health care in the United States.

S. 1424

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1424, a bill to remove the restrictions on commercial air service at Love Field, Texas.

S. 1462

At the request of Mr. CORZINE, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1462, a bill to promote peace and accountability in Sudan, and for other purposes.

S. 1523

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1523, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent increased expensing for small businesses.

S. 1700

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1700, a bill to establish an Office of the Hurricane Katrina Recovery Chief Financial Officer, and for other purposes.

S. 1716

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1716, a bill to provide emergency health care relief for survivors of Hurricane Katrina, and for other purposes.

S. 1735

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1735, a bill to improve the Federal Trade Commission's ability to protect consumers from price-gouging during energy emergencies, and for other purposes.

S. 1749

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1749, a bill to reinstate the application of the wage requirements of the Davis-Bacon Act to Federal contracts in areas affected by Hurricane Katrina.

S. 1750

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1750, a bill to provide for the issuance of certificates to Social Security beneficiaries who are born before 1950 guaranteeing their right to receive Social Security benefits under title II of the Social Security Act in full with an accurate annual cost-of-living adjustment.

S. RES. 155

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 155, a resolution designating the week of November 6 through November

12, 2005, as "National Veterans Awareness Week" to emphasize the need to develop educational programs regarding the contributions of veterans to the country.

S. RES. 236

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 236, a resolution recognizing the need to pursue research into the causes, a treatment, and an eventual cure for idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, supporting the goals and ideals of National Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Week, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 237

At the request of Mr. VOINOVICH, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 237, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on reaching an agreement on the future status of Kosovo.

S. RES. 245

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 245, a resolution recognizing the life and accomplishments of Simon Wiesenthal.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. SNOWE:

S. 1767. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to reevaluate the band plans for the upper 700 megaHertz band and the un-auctioned portions of the lower 700 megaHertz band and reconfigure them to include spectrum to be licensed for small geographic areas; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today with the support of many of my colleagues on the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation to introduce legislation to encourage the deployment of next generation wireless services in rural areas. Cell phones have become a vital part of so many lives. Today, there are over 194 million wireless subscribers in the United States—a subscribership that continues to grow. I want to be sure we foster an environment where this technology and future wireless technologies can flourish.

Along with mobility, convenience and safety, cell phones today also have benefits of information access and entertainment. While wireless phones have been rapidly adopted by the general public, wireless service is far from being without flaws. I myself become frustrated while home in Maine when I cannot get cell phone and blackberry

service. Something must be done in order to improve the wireless services that so many people rely on.

Wireless services, such as cell phones, wireless handheld devices and some Internet services utilize frequencies on the radio spectrum to transfer voice and data from one user to another. It is the job of the service provider to turn these airwaves into the valuable services that consumers demand. The quality of service in a given place depends on how much investment the service provider has put into infrastructure. More urban locations tend to have better service because the return on investment is much higher due to the concentration of customers. This does not mean that rural areas are left without service. Viable business models exist that can sustain service in these more remote locations. Oftentimes smaller, local wireless companies can serve these areas better than nationwide service providers.

One of the greatest barriers to entry in the wireless industry is acquiring a spectrum license in which a service can be operated. Companies bid up to billions of dollars for rights to one of Nation's most important resources. The digital television transition will soon release new spectrum into the marketplace. Currently, the Federal Communications Commission is slated to auction off the spectrum in licenses that cover large geographic areas. While this may be the preferred size for national wireless carriers, smaller companies will be unable to compete in the bidding process.

The bill I introduce today aims to address this problem by directing the Federal Communications Commission to reevaluate its current bandplan for the 700 MHz spectrum that will be auctioned as a result of the digital television transition. In this reevaluation, the FCC must divide some of the frequency allocations into smaller area licenses so that local and regional wireless companies can have an opportunity to compete in the bidding process. The proper balance of large and small licenses will encourage the deployment of advanced services throughout all parts of the United States.

This bill is not meant to circumvent the expertise of the Federal Communications Commission. It merely directs the FCC to use its expertise to develop a plan that will benefit the entire nation. Rural America deserves the same benefits of wireless technologies that are available in urban areas. This Act gives those best able to serve remote areas the tools needed to deploy services.

By Mr. SPECTER (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. FEINGOLD):

S. 1768. A bill to permit the televising of Supreme Court proceedings; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I seek recognition to introduce legislation

that will give the public greater access to our Supreme Court. This bill requires the high Court to permit television coverage of its open sessions unless it decides by a vote of the majority of Justices that allowing such coverage in a particular case would violate the due process rights of one or more of the parties involved in the matter.

The purpose of this legislation is to open the Supreme Court doors so that more Americans can see the process by which the Court reaches critical decisions of law that affect this country and everyday Americans. Because the Supreme Court of the United States holds power to decide cutting-edge questions on public policy, thereby effectively becoming a virtual "super legislature," the public has a right to know what the Supreme Court is doing. And that right would be substantially enhanced by televising the oral arguments of the Court so that the public can see and hear the issues presented to the Court. With this information, the public would have insight into key issues and be better equipped to understand the impact of the Court's decisions.

In a very fundamental sense, televising the Supreme Court has been implicitly recognized—perhaps even sanctioned—in a 1980 decision by the Supreme Court of the United States entitled *Richmond Newspapers v. Virginia*. In this case, the Supreme Court noted that a public trial belongs not only to the accused, but to the public and the press as well; and that people now acquire information on court procedures chiefly through the print and electronic media.

That decision, in referencing the electronic media, appears to anticipate televising court proceedings, although I do not mean to suggest that the Supreme Court is in agreement with this legislation. I should note that the Court could, on its own motion, televise its proceedings but has chosen not to do so, which presents, in my view, the necessity for legislating on this subject.

When I argued the case of the Navy Yard, *Dalton v. Specter*, back in 1994, the Court proceedings were illustrated by an artist's drawings. Now, however, the public gets a substantial portion, if not most, of its information from television and the internet. While many court proceedings are broadcast routinely on television, the public has little access to the most important and highest court in this country. The public must either rely on the print media, or stand in long lines outside the Supreme Court in Washington DC in order to get a brief glimpse of the open session from the public gallery.

Justice Felix Frankfurter perhaps anticipated the day when Supreme Court arguments would be televised when he said that he longed for a day when: The news media would cover the Supreme Court as thoroughly as it did the World Series, since the public confidence in the judiciary hinges on the