

2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4364. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification of Class E Airspace; Norfolk, NE; Confirmation of Effective Date" ((RIN2120-AA66) (2005-0227)) received on October 11, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4365. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification of Restricted Area R-3004; Fort Gordon, GA" ((RIN2120-AA66) (2005-0225)) received on October 11, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4366. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification of Legal Description of Class E Airspace; Lincoln, NE" ((RIN2120-AA66) (2005-0226)) received on October 11, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4367. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification of Legal Description of the Class D and Class E Airspace; Salina Municipal Airport, KS; Confirmation of Effective Date" ((RIN2120-AA66) (2005-0228)) received on October 11, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4368. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Milk in the Appalachian and Southeast Marketing Areas—Partial Final Rule" (Docket No. AO-388-A15 and AO-366-A44; DA-03-11) received on October 18, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4369. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Quality Systems Verification Programs" ((RIN0581-AC12) (Docket No. LS-02-10)) received on October 18, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4370. A communication from the Commandant, United States Coast Guard, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation "To implement Annex VI to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as amended by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4371. A communication from the Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the State Program Amendment Process" (RIN1029-AC06) received on October 18, 2005; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4372. A communication from the General Counsel, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Administrator, Office of Federal Procurement Policy, received on October 18, 2005; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4373. A communication from the Acting Director, Division of Policy, Planning and Program Development, Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Obligation To So-

licit Race and Gender Data for Agency Enforcement Purposes" (RIN1215-AB45) received on October 18, 2005; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4374. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary, Emergency Preparedness and Response, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report that funding for the State of Arkansas as a result of the emergency conditions resulting from the influx of evacuees from areas struck by Hurricane Katrina on August 29, 2005, and continuing, has exceeded \$5,000,000; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4375. A communication from the General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Technical Corrections 12 CFR Parts 703, 790, 791" received on October 18, 2005; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4376. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Organization and Functions, Final Rule" (RIN2550-AA33) received on October 18, 2005; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. INHOFE, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1409. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996 to modify the grant program to improve sanitation in rural and Native villages in the State of Alaska (Rept. No. 109-159).

By Mr. ENZI, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1873. A bill to prepare and strengthen the biodefenses of the United States against deliberate, accidental, and natural outbreaks of illness, and for other purposes.

#### 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. BURNS:

S. 1909. A bill to improve the provision of telehealth services under the Medicare Program, to provide grants for the development of telehealth networks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SUNUNU:

S. 1910. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide incentives to physicians for writing electronic prescriptions; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BENNETT (for himself and Mrs. CLINTON):

S. 1911. A bill to provide for the protection of the flag of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN:

S. 1912. A bill to establish a global network for avian influenza surveillance among wild birds nationally and internationally to combat the growing threat of bird flu, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 119

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 119, a bill to provide for the protection of unaccompanied alien children, and for other purposes.

S. 132

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 132, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction for premiums on mortgage insurance.

S. 392

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 392, a bill to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of Congress, collectively, to the Tuskegee Airmen in recognition of their unique military record, which inspired revolutionary reform in the Armed Forces.

S. 484

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) were added as cosponsors 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. 503

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 503, a bill to expand Parents as Teachers programs and other quality programs of early childhood home visitation, and for other purposes.

S. 627

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 627, 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. 632

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 632, a bill to authorize the extension of unconditional and permanent non-discriminatory treatment (permanent normal trade relations treatment) to the products of Ukraine, and for other purposes.

S. 757

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) were added as cosponsors of S. 757, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to make grants for the development and operation of research centers regarding environmental factors

that may be related to the etiology of breast cancer.

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 757, *supra*.

S. 843

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 843, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to combat autism through research, screening, intervention and education.

S. 1057

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1057, a bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to revise and extend that Act.

S. 1155

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1155, a bill to establish a commission to conduct a comprehensive review of Federal agencies and programs and to recommend the elimination or realignment of duplicative, wasteful, or outdated functions, and for other purposes.

S. 1173

At the request of Mr. DEMINT, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1173, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to ensure the right of employees to a secret-ballot election conducted by the National Labor Relations Board.

S. 1353

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1353, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment of an Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Registry.

S. 1462

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1462, a bill to promote peace and accountability in Sudan, and for other purposes.

S. 1759

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1759, a bill to require the Secretary of the Army to remove the remains of Russell Wayne Wagner from Arlington National Cemetery.

S. 1779

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1779, a bill to amend the Humane Methods of Livestock Slaughter Act of 1958 to ensure the humane slaughter of non-ambulatory livestock, and for other purposes.

S. 1800

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cospon-

sor of S. 1800, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the new markets tax credit.

S. 1841

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1841, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide extended and additional protection to Medicare beneficiaries who enroll for the Medicare prescription drug benefit during 2006.

S. CON. RES. 46

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 46, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the Russian Federation should fully protect the freedoms of all religious communities without distinction, whether registered and unregistered, as stipulated by the Russian Constitution and international standards.

S. RES. 260

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 260, a resolution calling for free and fair parliamentary elections in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

S. RES. 277

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 277, a resolution supporting the goals of Red Ribbon Week.

AMENDMENT NO. 2182

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2182 proposed to H.R. 3058, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BURNS:

S. 1909. A bill to improve the provision of telehealth services under the Medicare Program, to provide grants for the development of telehealth networks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about the introduction of my bill, the Medicare Telehealth Enhancement Act of 2005.

Now, not all of us live in the big city—like New York City or Chicago—but that should not mean that all of us cannot receive the same quality health care. Since I have been in office, I have spent a lot of time making sure that folks who live out in the hinterland—like the small towns of Scobey or Jordan or Wolf Point across Montana—still get quality health care, like everyone else. I do not want distance to be a barrier to care.

One of the ways we have bridged these divides is through telehealth—actually using technology to draw people together and deliver care. Now, across the great State of Montana, we have doctors consulting with patients who may be 200 or 300 miles away. That means those folks who live in the middle of nowhere do not have to drive 400 miles roundtrip, just to get a medical opinion on symptoms they may have or minor changes which may need to be made to their diabetes equipment, or feedback from an x-ray at a local clinic, from a specialist. That is a big deal, especially when roads are icy and the temperature is below zero.

I have sponsored the Medicare Telehealth Enhancement Act of 2005, which is a bill to improve the provisions of telehealth services under the Medicare Program and provide grants for the development of telehealth networks.

Specifically, my bill will: facilitate the provision of telehealth services across State lines, Licensure, as it affects providers who consult diagnose across State lines, remains a significant barrier to accessing such services, and call for Medicare reimbursement for remote medical and health services for all remaining institutions eligible to participate in Medicare but not currently eligible to be reimbursed for telemedicine/telehealth services.

Include an expansion of Medicare-covered originating telehealth sites, prioritizing eligibility for nursing homes, dialysis centers, and community-based mental health centers.

Revise “originating site” language to ensure telehealth service providers are reimbursement-eligible when patients are located at sites with telehealth capabilities, regardless of originating site designation.

Expand Medicare reimbursement for telehealth services to all geographical areas, recognizing eligibility for telehealth sites among urban populations as well as rural and underserved populations.

Allow for “eligible practitioners” furnishing telehealth services to include physical and occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, and other certified providers, as well as those the Secretary of Health and Human Services approves.

Amend Medicare coverage to all remaining medical services currently covered under the CPT procedure codes but not eligible to be reimbursed when provided via telemedicine/telehealth, and medical services that are provided using store-and-forward technology.

Authorize a grant program through the Office for the Advancement of Telehealth of HRSA for the development of telehealth networks and defines non-profit and for-profit alliances as grant-eligible provided the grant recipient is a nonprofit.

Reauthorize the Telehealth Network and Telehealth Resource Centers grant programs through 2012.

Shortages of health care workers across the spectrum are nothing new.