

activities; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 1953. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to protect the retirement security of American workers by ensuring that pension benefits are funded and that pension assets are adequately diversified and by providing workers with adequate access to, and information about, their pension plans, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Finance; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. CRAIG (for himself and Mr. AKAKA):

S. 1954. A bill to amend the General Notes of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to give products imported from United States insular possessions the same treatment as products imported from countries with which the United States has entered into a free trade agreement; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, and Mr. BURNS):

S. 1955. A bill to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Security Act of 1974 and the Public Health Service Act to expand health care access and reduce costs through the creation of small business health plans and through modernization of the health insurance marketplace; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. DODD, Mr. KERRY, Mr. OBAMA, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. KOHL, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. Res. 294. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on the retention of the Federal tax deduction for State and local taxes paid; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LUGAR (for himself, Mr. FRIST, and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. Res. 295. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on the arrest of Sanjar Umarov in Uzbekistan; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. Res. 296. A resolution honoring the life of and expressing the condolences of the Senate on the passing of Dr. Richard Errett Smalley; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself and Mr. KOHL):

S. Res. 297. A resolution marking the dedication of the Gaylord Nelson Wilderness within the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 368

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 368, a bill to provide assistance to reduce teen pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, and other sexually transmitted diseases and to support healthy adolescent development.

S. 406

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Pennsyl-

vania (Mr. SANTORUM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 406, a bill to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Security Act of 1974 to improve access and choice for entrepreneurs with small businesses with respect to medical care for their employees.

S. 632

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, his name 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. 633

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 633, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of veterans who became disabled for life while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

S. 855

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 855, a bill to improve the security of the Nation's ports by providing Federal grants to support Area Maritime Transportation Security Plans and to address vulnerabilities in port areas identified in approved vulnerability assessments or by the Secretary of Homeland Security.

S. 908

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 908, a bill to allow Congress, State legislatures, and regulatory agencies to determine appropriate laws, rules, and regulations to address the problems of weight gain, obesity, and health conditions associated with weight gain or obesity.

S. 912

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 912, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify the jurisdiction of the United States over waters of the United States.

S. 994

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 994, 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.

S. 1184

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1184, a bill to waive the passport fees for a relative of a deceased member of the Armed Forces proceeding abroad to visit the grave of such member or to attend a funeral or memorial service for such member.

S. 1190

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1190, a bill to provide sufficient blind rehabilitation outpatient specialists at medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

S. 1191

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1191, a bill to establish a grant program to provide innovative transportation options to veterans in remote rural areas.

S. 1272

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) were added as cosponsors 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. 1315

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. CHAFEE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1315, a bill to require a report on progress toward the Millennium Development Goals, and for other purposes.

S. 1417

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. TALENT) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) were added as cosponsors of S. 1417, a bill to impose tariff-rate quotas on certain casein and milk protein concentrates.

S. 1440

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1440, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage for cardiac rehabilitation and pulmonary rehabilitation services.

S. 1512

At the request of Mr. SARBANES, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1512, a bill to grant a Federal charter to Korean War Veterans Association, Incorporated.

S. 1791

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1791, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction for qualified timber gains.

S. 1815

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1815, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to prescribe the binding oath or affirmation

of renunciation and allegiance required to be naturalized as a citizen of the United States, to encourage and support the efforts of prospective citizens of the United States to become citizens, and for other purposes.

S. 1922

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1922, a bill to authorize appropriate action if negotiations with Japan to allow the resumption of United States beef exports are not successful, and for other purposes.

S. 1925

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1925, a bill to provide for workers and businesses during the response to Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, and for other purposes.

S. 1947

At the request of Mr. SUNUNU, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1947, a bill to amend chapter 21 of title 38, United States Code, to enhance adaptive housing assistance for disabled veterans.

S. RES. 219

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 219, a resolution designating March 8, 2006, as "Endangered Species Day", and encouraging the people of the United States to become educated about, and aware of, threats to species, success stories in species recovery, and the opportunity to promote species conservation worldwide.

AMENDMENT NO. 2351

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2351 proposed to S. 1932, an original bill to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 202(a) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006 (H. Con. Res. 95).

AMENDMENT NO. 2353

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2353 intended to be proposed to S. 1932, an original bill to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 202(a) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006 (H. Con. Res. 95).

AMENDMENT NO. 2354

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2354 intended to be proposed to S. 1932, an original bill to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 202(a) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006 (H. Con. Res. 95).

AMENDMENT NO. 2355

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2355 proposed to S. 1932, an original bill to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 202(a) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006 (H. Con. Res. 95).

AMENDMENT NO. 2357

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2357 proposed to S. 1932, an original bill to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 202(a) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006 (H. Con. Res. 95).

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. DEWINE):

S. 1951. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to help individuals with functional impairments and their families pay for services and supports that they need to maximize their functionality and independence and have choices about community participation, education, and employment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it's a privilege to join Senator DEWINE in introducing this bipartisan legislation to build on the promise and possibilities of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Our bill, the Community Living Assistance Services and Supports Act—the CLASS Act—will help large numbers of Americans who struggle every day to live productive lives in their communities.

Too many Americans are perfectly capable of living a life in the community, but are denied the supports they need.

They languish in needless circumstances with no choice about how or where to obtain these services.

Too often, they have to give up the American Dream the dignity of a job, a home, and a family—so they can qualify for Medicaid, the only program that will support them.

The bill we propose is a long overdue effort to offer greater dignity, greater hope, and greater opportunity.

It makes a simple pact with all Americans—"If you work hard and contribute, society will take care of you when you fall on hard times."

The concept is clear—everyone can contribute and everyone can win. We all benefit when no one is left behind.

For only \$30 a month, a person who pays into the program will receive either \$50 or \$100 a day, based on their

ability to carry out basic daily activities.

They themselves will decide how this assistance will be spent—on transportation so they can stay employed, or on a ramp to make their home more accessible, or to cover the cost of a personal care attendant or a family caregiver.

It will help keep families together—instead of being torn apart by obstacles that discourage them from staying at home.

The bill will strengthen job opportunities for people with disabilities at a time when 70 percent are unemployed. They have so much to contribute and the bill will help them do it.

It will save on the mushrooming health care costs for Medicaid, the Nation's primary insurer of long-term care services, which also forces beneficiaries to give up their jobs and live in poverty before they become eligible for assistance.

The CLASS Act is a hopeful new approach to restoring independence and choice for millions of these persons and enabling them to take greater control of their lives.

It's time to respect the rights and dignity of all Americans, and I look forward to working with Senator DEWINE and other colleagues to see this bill enacted into law.

I ask unanimous consent that a summary of the CLASS Act legislation be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the summary was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SUMMARY OF THE DEWINE-KENNEDY CLASS ACT OF 2005—(COMMUNITY LIVING ASSISTANCE SERVICES AND SUPPORTS ACT)

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

To help adults with severe functional impairments obtain the services and supports they need to stay functional and independent, while providing them with choices about community participation, education and employment.

BACKGROUND

Currently there are 10 million Americans in need of long term services and supports, and the number is expected to increase to near 15 million by 2020.

Most private-sector disability or long-term care insurance plans are constrained in the insurance protection they can offer at an affordable price, and neither Supplemental Security Insurance (SSI) nor Old, Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) programs have any benefit differentials related to the extent and character of the disability.

Thus, most Americans who have or develop severe functional impairments can only access coverage for the services critical to their independence (such as housing modifications, assistive technologies, transportation, and personal assistance services), through Medicaid. Their reliance on Medicaid for critical support services creates a strong incentive for them to "spend down" assets and remain poor and unemployed. With Medicaid paying 50 percent of the costs of long term services, increased expenditures on long term services are expected to add \$44 billion annually to the cost of Medicaid over the next decade.

OVERVIEW OF THE LEGISLATION

The CLASS Act will offer an alternative path. It will create a new national insurance