

Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP); to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Whereas, The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) was established by Congress as a federally funded program providing energy assistance to low-income persons for heating their homes; and

Whereas, Many Pennsylvanians received these energy assistance grants for several years; and

Whereas, Natural gas, electric and home heating oil prices have risen steadily over the past several years and are predicted to be even higher for this winter; and

Whereas, Home heating oil prices are predicted to increase by 52%; and

Whereas, Natural gas prices are predicted to increase by 36% or higher; and

Whereas, The Federal allocation for LIHEAP has remained at \$2 billion for years; and

Whereas, The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will receive \$120 million, the same amount it received last year; and

Whereas, More than 70% of eligible residential customers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are not able to receive assistance due to lack of funding; and

Whereas, Some increases in home heating prices is due to devastation from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita; and

Whereas, While the Gulf Coast states were directly struck by Hurricane Katrina and Rita, northeastern states have felt the impact of the storms through a sharp increase in natural gas, electric and home heating oil costs; and

Whereas, Gas companies in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania receive 80% of their natural gas supply from the Gulf Coast suppliers; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorialize Congress to appropriate supplemental LIHEAP funds as part of any disaster relief legislation to assist those states which will be impacted by higher prices and shortages in the midst of a predicted harsh winter; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Clerk of the United States Senate and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives.

POM-216. A resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of South Charleston, West Virginia relative to the withdrawal of troops from Iraq; to the Committee on Armed Services.

POM-217. A resolution adopted by the California State Lands Commission relative to opposing lifting of the Federal Moratorium on Oil and Gas Leasing off the California Coast; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

POM-218. A resolution adopted by the Jefferson Davis Parish Police Jury of the State of Louisiana relative to temporarily removing the embargo restrictions on Cuba; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

POM-219. A resolution adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles of the State of California relative to supporting House Resolution 316 and House Concurrent Resolution 195 which relate to the Armenian Genocide of 1915 to 1923; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

POM-220. A resolution adopted by the Township Council, Township of South Brunswick, State of New Jersey relative to expressing disapproval of those sections of the Patriot Act that may infringe upon fundamental civil rights; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of committee was submitted:

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation I report favorably the following nomination list which was printed in the RECORD on the date indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that this nomination lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Coast Guard nomination of Kathleen M. Donohoe to be Captain.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of committee was submitted:

By Mr. LUGAR, from the Committee on Foreign Relations:

[Treaty Doc. 109-2 Convention Strengthening Inter-American Tuna Commission (Exec. Rept. No. 109-7)]

TEXT OF THE RESOLUTION OF RATIFICATION AS REPORTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Resolved (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein), That the Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Convention for the Strengthening of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission Established by the 1949 Convention Between the United States of America and the Republic of Costa Rica, with Annexes, adopted on June 27, 2003, in Antigua, Guatemala, and signed by the United States on November 14, 2003 (Treaty Doc. 109-2).

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. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. AKAKA, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 2002. A bill to provide protection against bovine spongiform encephalopathy and other prion diseases; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 2003. A bill to make permanent the authorization for watershed restoration and enhancement agreements; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 2004. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to establish a demonstration project to begin correcting structural bridge deficiencies; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. REED:

S. 2005. A bill to provide for the reviewing, updating, and maintenance of National Flood Insurance Program rate maps, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. JEFFORDS):

S. 2006. A bill to provide for recovery efforts relating to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita for Corps of Engineers projects; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SALAZAR (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. 2007. A bill to examine the circumstances contributing to the problems

facing the health care system of the United States and to develop public and private policies as appropriate to address rising health care costs and the number of uninsured Americans; 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. MCCAIN (for himself and Mr. BIDEN):

S. Res. 311. A resolution expressing support for the people of Sri Lanka in the wake of the tsunami and the assassination of the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister and urging support and respect for free and fair elections in Sri Lanka; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 333

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 333, a bill to hold the current regime in Iran accountable for its threatening behavior and to support a transition to democracy in Iran.

S. 431

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 431, a bill to establish a program to award grants to improve and maintain sites honoring Presidents of the United States.

S. 484

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) 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. 627

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) 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 names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 632, 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.

S. 695

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the names of the Senator from Mississippi

(Mr. LOTT) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 695, a bill to suspend temporarily new shipper bonding privileges.

S. 757

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor 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.

S. 1272

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) 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. 1779

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1779, a bill to amend the Humane Methods of Livestock Slaughter Act of 1958 to ensure the humane slaughter of nonambulatory livestock, and for other purposes.

S. 1813

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1813, a bill to amend titles 10 and 38 of the United States Code, to modify the circumstances under which a person who has committed a capital offense is denied certain burial-related benefits and funeral honors.

S. 1934

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1934, a bill to reauthorize the grant program of the Department of Justice for reentry of offenders into the community, to establish a task force on Federal programs and activities relating to the reentry of offenders into the community, and for other purposes.

S. 1959

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) were added as cosponsors of S. 1959, a bill to direct the Architect of the Capitol to obtain a statue of Rosa Parks and to place the statue in the United States Capitol in National Statuary Hall.

S. 1969

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the names of the Senator from New York

(Mrs. CLINTON), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1969, a bill to express the sense of the Senate regarding Medicaid reconciliation legislation to be reported by a conference committee during the 109th Congress.

S.J. RES. 25

At the request of Mr. TALENT, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 25, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to authorize the President to reduce or disapprove any appropriation in any bill presented by Congress.

S. CON. RES. 62

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 62, a concurrent resolution directing the Joint Committee on the Library to procure a statue of Rosa Parks for placement in the Capitol.

S. RES. 232

At the request of Mr. MARTINEZ, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 232, a resolution celebrating the 40th anniversary of the enactment of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and reaffirming the commitment of the Senate to ensuring the continued effectiveness of the act in protecting the voting rights of all citizens of the United States.

AMENDMENT NO. 2456

At the request of Mrs. DOLE, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. CHAFEE) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2456 proposed to S. 1042, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2468

At the request of Mrs. DOLE, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. TALENT), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2468 proposed to S. 1042, an original bill to au-

thorize appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. AKAKA, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 2002. A bill to provide protection against bovine spongiform encephalopathy and other prion diseases; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am introducing a bill to strengthen our Nation's firewalls against prion diseases. This bill would prevent the spread of mad cow disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy, BSE. It also addresses other forms of prion disease that affect humans and animals.

For many years, we thought that we didn't have BSE in the United States. But now we have to assume that the disease does exist in our cattle, though it has been detected only twice.

In June 2005, U.S. Department of Agriculture, USDA, officials announced that a Texas cow had tested positive for BSE.

It is troubling that the USDA and Food and Drug Administration, FDA, investigation could not pin down how the cow became infected. Reports compiled for the Texas Animal Health Commission and obtained by The Dallas Morning News showed that 85 percent of the cattle traced in the investigation had already been sent for slaughter.

We should not settle for half-measures in BSE control. Yet nearly two years after USDA and FDA announced efforts to strengthen our nation's firewalls against BSE, critical gaps remain in our defenses.

Just last week, the Government Accountability Office released a study that found that testing of cattle feed is at times too slow to prevent cattle from eating feed that might be contaminated.

Poultry litter, plate waste, and pet food can still be fed to cattle, creating loopholes in the ruminant feed ban.

In addition, the USDA Office of the Inspector General has raised concerns about the design of USDA's surveillance program, including whether the Agency is appropriately selecting animals for testing and testing an adequate number of older cattle.

To fully protect animal and public health, I am reintroducing my bill to strengthen our Nation's firewalls against prion diseases like BSE. My bill would close loopholes in the ruminant feed ban. It would ensure that all older cattle are tested for BSE. In addition, my bill would improve enforcement of the feed ban and take steps to ensure that meat intended for human