

S. 962. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit to holders of qualified bonds issued to finance certain energy projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. THUNE:

S. 963. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a guaranteed adequate level of funding for veterans' health care, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a pilot program to improve access to health care for rural veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 964. A bill to provide a conservation royalty from Outer Continental Shelf revenues to establish the Coastal Impact Assistance Program, to provide assistance to States under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, to ensure adequate funding for conserving and restoring wildlife, to assist local governments in improving local park and recreation systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SMITH (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN):

S. 965. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the recognition period for built-in gains for subchapter S corporations; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 966. A bill to designate a United States courthouse located in Fresno, California, as the "Robert E. Coyle United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DORGAN, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. DAYTON):

S. 967. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to ensure that prepackaged news stories contain announcements that inform viewers that the information within was provided by the United States Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. CLINTON (for herself, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. CORZINE):

S. 968. A bill to amend chapters 83 and 84 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that spouses of Federal public safety officers who are killed in the line of duty, may remarry and continue to receive a survivor annuity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. OBAMA:

S. 969. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to preparation for an influenza pandemic, including an avian influenza pandemic, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. CLINTON:

S. 970. A bill to establish the African Burial Ground National Historic Site and the African Burial Ground International Memorial Museum in New York, New York, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. CHAFEE, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. SMITH):

S. 971. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage and accelerate the nationwide production, retail sale, and consumer use of new motor vehicles that are powered by fuel cell technology, hybrid technology, battery electric technology, al-

ternative fuels, or other advanced motor vehicle technologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BINGAMAN:

S. 972. A bill to designate the Albuquerque Indian Health Center as a critical access facility and to provide funds for that Center; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. OBAMA):

S. 973. A bill to establish the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ALLARD:

S. 974. A bill to amend the National Trails System Act to clarify Federal authority relating to land acquisition from willing sellers for the majority of the trails in the System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. BROWNBACK):

S. 975. A bill to provide incentives to increase research by private sector entities to develop medical countermeasures to prevent, detect, identify, contain, and treat illnesses, including those associated with biological, chemical, nuclear, or radiological weapons attack or an infectious disease outbreak, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. BURNS:

S. 976. A bill striking the Specific Privatization Criteria in ORBIT for Intelsat Separated Entities (New Skies) and Inmarsat and Other Technical Corrections; considered and passed.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. MARTINEZ, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. Res. 128. A resolution designating April 30, 2005, as "Dia de los Ninos: Celebrating Young Americans"; and for other purposes; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. ALLEN:

S. Res. 129. A resolution commending the Virginia Retail Merchants Association on 100 years of service to the community; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. OBAMA, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. Res. 130. A resolution designating the week of May 1 through May 7, 2005, as "North American Occupational Safety and Health Week (NAOSH)"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SPECTER (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. KYL, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. KOHL, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DURBIN, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. Res. 131. A resolution commemorating and acknowledging the dedication and sacrifice made by the men and women who have lost their lives while serving as law enforcement officers; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mr. COBURN, and Mr. DEMINT):

S. Res. 132. A resolution expressing support for prayer at school board meetings; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. REID):

S. Con. Res. 29. A concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. REID, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. DAYTON, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. CORZINE, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. Con. Res. 30. A concurrent resolution to express the sense of Congress concerning the provision of health insurance coverage to all Americans; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 114

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 114, a bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to ensure that every uninsured child in America has health insurance coverage, and for other purposes.

S. 174

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 174, a bill to improve the palliative and end-of-life care provided to children with life-threatening conditions, and for other purposes.

S. 191

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. McCAIN) 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. 206

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 206, a bill to designate the Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail, and for other purposes.

S. 300

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 300, a bill to extend the temporary increase in payments under the medicare program for home health services furnished in a rural area.

S. 333

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor 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. 347

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 347, a bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act and title III of the Public Health Service Act to improve access to information about individuals' health care operations and legal rights for care near the end of life, to promote advance care planning and decision-making so that individuals' wishes are known should they become unable to speak for themselves, to engage health care providers in disseminating information about and assisting in the preparation of advance directives, which include living wills and durable powers of

attorney for health care, and for other purposes.

S. 382

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBAKES), the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 382, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to strengthen prohibitions against animal fighting, and for other purposes.

S. 390

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 390, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of ultrasound screening for abdominal aortic aneurysms under part B of the medicare program.

S. 399

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 399, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the sale of prescription drugs through the Internet, and for other purposes.

S. 420

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 420, a bill to make the repeal of the estate tax permanent.

S. 424

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 424, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for arthritis research and public health, and for other purposes.

S. 467

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 467, a bill to extend the applicability of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002.

S. 484

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) 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. 582

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 582, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of the Little Rock Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, and for other purposes.

S. 593

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 593, a bill to amend title VII of the Tariff Act of 1930 to provide that the

provisions relating to countervailing duties apply to nonmarket economy countries.

S. 619

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 619, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 633

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) 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. 678

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 678, a bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to exclude communications over the Internet from the definition of public communication.

S. 709

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 709, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a grant program to provide supportive services in permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 756

At the request of Mr. BENNETT, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 756, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance public and health professional awareness and understanding of lupus and to strengthen the Nation's research efforts to identify the causes and cure of lupus.

S. 768

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 768, a bill to provide for comprehensive identity theft prevention.

S. 776

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 776, a bill to designate certain functions performed at flight service stations of the Federal Aviation Administration as inherently governmental functions, and for other purposes.

S. 784

At the request of Mr. THOMAS, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 784, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of marriage

and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under part B of the medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 803

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 803, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, the Public Health Service Act, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide parity with respect to substance abuse treatment benefits under group health plans and health insurance coverage.

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 803, *supra*.

S. 828

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 828, a bill to enhance and further research into paralysis and to improve rehabilitation and the quality of life for persons living with paralysis and other physical disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 843

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) were added as cosponsors of S. 843, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to combat autism through research, screening, intervention and education.

S. 845

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 845, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit retired servicemembers who have a service-connected disability to receive disability compensation and either retired pay or Combat-Related Special Compensation and to eliminate the phase-in period with respect to such concurrent receipt.

S. 849

At the request of Mr. ALLEN, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 849, a bill to make the moratorium on Internet access taxes and multiple and discriminatory taxes on electronic commerce permanent.

S. 863

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the names of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 863, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centenary of the bestowal of the Nobel Peace Prize on President Theodore Roosevelt, and for other purposes.

S. 930

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 930, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act

with respect to drug safety, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 115

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 115, a resolution designating May 2005 as "National Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month".

AMENDMENT NO. 578

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 578 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3, a bill Reserved.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself and Mr. NELSON of Nebraska):

S. 933. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for improvements in access to services in rural hospitals and critical access hospitals; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, today I join Senator BROWNBACK in introducing The Rural Community Hospital Assistance Act. This legislation is intended to ensure the future of small rural hospitals by restructuring the way they are reimbursed for Medicare services by basing the reimbursements on actual costs instead of the current pre-set cost structure.

Current law allows for very small hospitals—designated Critical Access Hospitals (CAH) to receive cost-based Medicare reimbursements. To qualify as a CAH the facility must have no more than 25 acute care beds.

In rural communities, hospital facilities that are slightly larger than the 25 bed limit share with Critical Access Hospitals the same economic conditions, the same treatment challenges, the same disparity in coverage area but do not share the same reimbursement arrangement. These rural hospitals have to compete with larger urban-based hospitals that can perform the same services at drastically reduced costs. They are also discouraged from investing in technology and other methods to improve the quality of care in their communities because those investments are not supported by Medicare reimbursement procedures.

The legislation would provide enhanced cost-based Medicare reimbursement by creating a new "rural" designation under the Medicare reimbursement system. This new designation would benefit five Nebraska hospitals. Hospitals in McCook, Beatrice, Columbus, Holdrege and Lexington would fall under this new designation, and would have similar benefits provided to nearly sixty other Nebraska hospitals classified under the CAH system.

The legislation would also improve the hospitals with critical access status. Sixty CAH facilities in Nebraska already receive enhanced cost-based re-

imbursements for inpatient and outpatient services. The legislation would further assist these existing CAH facilities by extending the enhanced cost-based reimbursement to certain post-acute and ambulance services and eliminating the current 35-mile test.

Rural hospitals cannot continue to provide these services without having Medicare cover the costs. If something is not done, the larger hospitals may be forced to cut back on the number of beds they keep—and the number of people they care for, and others may be forced to close their doors. These hospitals provide jobs, good wages, health care and economic development opportunity for these communities. Without access to these hospitals, these communities would not survive. The Rural Community Hospital Assistance Act will ensure that the community has access to high quality health care that is affordable to the patient and the provider.

Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 934. A bill to establish an expedited procedure for congressional consideration of health care reform legislation; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today I am pleased to be joined by the Senator from South Carolina, Mr. GRAHAM, in introducing legislation that requires Congress to act on what may be the most pressing domestic policy issue of our time, namely health care reform.

I travel to each of Wisconsin's 72 counties every year to hold town hall meetings. Year after year, the number one issue raised at these listening sessions is the same—health care. The failure of our health care system brings people to these meetings in droves. The frustration I hear, the anger and the desperation, have convinced me that we must change the system.

So many people now come to tell me that they used to think government involvement was a terrible idea, but not anymore. Now they tell me that their businesses are being destroyed by health care costs, and they want the government to step in. These costs are crippling our economy just as the nation is struggling to rebound from the loss of millions of manufacturing jobs.

Our health care system has failed to keep costs in check. Costs are skyrocketing, and there is simply no way we can expect businesses to keep up. So in all too many cases, employers are left to offer sub-par benefits, or to wonder whether they can offer any benefits at all. Employers cannot be the sole provider of health care when these costs are rising faster than inflation.

One option that could help employers, especially small businesses, reduce their health care costs is to have them form health care cooperatives, where employers lower costs by purchasing care as a group. I have introduced a bill in the Senate to make it easier for business to create these cooperatives.

But that legislation certainly isn't the magic bullet that can address the whole problem. We need to come up with more comprehensive ways to address rising costs. In most cases, costs are still passed on to employees, who then face enormous premiums that demand more and more of their monthly income. People tell me that they don't understand how anyone can afford these astronomical premiums, and what can you say to that?

Well, we can say that it's time to move toward universal coverage. I believe we can find a way to make universal coverage work in this country. Universal coverage doesn't mean that we have to copy a system already in place in another country. We can harness our Nation's creativity and entrepreneurial spirit to design a system that is uniquely American. Universal coverage doesn't have to be defined by what's been attempted in the past. What universal coverage does mean is ending a system where approximately 45 million Americans are uninsured, and where too many of those who are insured are struggling to pay their premiums, struggling to pay for prescription drugs, and struggling to find long term care.

We can't tolerate a system that strands so many Americans without the coverage they need. This system costs us dearly: Even though an estimated 45 million Americans are uninsured, the United States devotes more of its economy to health care than other industrial countries.

Leaving this many Americans uninsured affects all of us. Those who are insured pay more because the uninsured can't afford to pay their bills. And those bills are exceptionally high, because the uninsured wait so long to see a doctor. The uninsured often live sicker, and die earlier, than other Americans, so they also need a disproportionate amount of acute care.

In 2001 alone, health care providers provided \$35 billion worth of uncompensated care. While providers absorb some of those costs, inevitably some of the burden is shifted to other patients. And of course the process of cost-shifting itself generates additional costs.

We are all paying the price for our broken health care system, and it is time to bring about change.

Over the years I have heard many different proposals for how we should change the health care system in this country. Some propose using tax incentives as a way to expand access to health care. Others think the best approach is to expand public programs. Some feel a national single payer health care system is the only way to go.

I don't think we can ignore any of these proposals. We need to consider all of these as we address our broken health care system.

As a former State legislator, I come to this debate knowing that States are coming up with some very innovative solutions to the health care problem.