

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. DEMINT:

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

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

S. 1174. A bill to authorize the President to posthumously award a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Robert M. La Follette, Sr., in recognition of his important contributions to the Progressive movement, the State of Wisconsin, and the United States; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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

S. 1175. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of Robert M. La Follette, Sr., in recognition of his important contributions to the Progressive movement, the State of Wisconsin, and the United States; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. AKAKA:

S. 1176. A bill to improve the provision of health care and services to veterans in Hawaii, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. AKAKA:

S. 1177. A bill to improve mental health services at all facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MARTINEZ:

S. 1178. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals a refundable credit against income tax for the purchase of private health insurance; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 1179. A bill to amend title SVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure that benefits under part D of such title have no impact on benefits under other Federal programs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. OBAMA:

S. 1180. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to reauthorize various programs servicing the needs of homeless veterans for fiscal years 2007 through 2011, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. FEINGOLD, and Mr. ALEXANDER):

S. 1181. A bill to ensure an open and deliberate process in Congress by providing that any future legislation to establish a new exemption to section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Freedom of Information Act) be stated explicitly within the text of the bill; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRAIG:

S. 1182. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve health care for veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. ALLEN):

S. 1183. A bill to provide additional assistance to recipients of Federal Pell Grants who are pursuing programs of study in engineering, mathematics, science, or foreign lan-

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

By Mr. BIDEN:

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; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. DODD:

S. 1185. A bill to protect United States workers from competition of foreign workforces for performance of Federal and State contracts; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. ALLARD, and Mr. COLEMAN):

S. 1186. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide the same capital gains treatment for art and collectibles as for other investment property and to provide that a deduction equal to fair market value shall be allowed for charitable contributions of literary, musical, artistic, or scholarly compositions created by the donor; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ALLEN:

S. 1187. A bill for the relief of James Symington; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ALLEN:

S. 1188. A bill for the relief of Fereshteh Sani; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SALAZAR:

S. 1189. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to publish a strategic plan for long-term care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SALAZAR:

S. 1190. A bill to provide sufficient blind rehabilitation outpatient specialists at medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SALAZAR:

S. 1191. A bill to establish a grant program to provide innovative transportation options to veterans in remote rural areas; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SALAZAR:

S. 1192. A bill to amend section 51 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the eligibility for the work opportunity tax credit to all disabled veterans; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 1193. A bill to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for the Transportation Security Administration to issue regulations requiring turbojet aircraft of air carriers to be equipped with missile defense systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

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

S. Res. 161. A resolution honoring the life of Robert M. La Follette, Sr., on the sesquicentennial of his birth; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. CORZINE, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. REID, Mr. FEINGOLD, and Mr. JEFFORDS):

S. Res. 162. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate concerning Griswold v. Connecticut; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 65

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) were added as cosponsors of S. 65, a bill to amend the age restrictions for pilots.

S. 98

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 98, a bill to amend the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 and the Revised Statutes of the United States to prohibit financial holding companies and national banks from engaging, directly or indirectly, in real estate brokerage or real estate management activities, and for other purposes.

S. 104

At the request of Mr. TALENT, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 104, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax-exempt financing of highway projects and rail-truck transfer facilities.

S. 151

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 151, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require an annual plan on outreach activities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

S. 181

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 181, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for taxpayers owning certain commercial power takeoff vehicles.

S. 340

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 340, a bill to maintain the free flow of information to the public by providing conditions for the federally compelled disclosure of information by certain persons connected with the news media.

S. 350

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 350, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide assistance for orphans and other vulnerable children in developing countries, and for other purposes.

S. 369

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 369, a bill to establish protections against compelled disclosure of sources, and news information, by persons providing services for the news media.

S. 390

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr.

OBAMA) 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. 392

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE) 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. 438

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 438, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps.

S. 484

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) 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. 489

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 489, a bill to amend chapter 111 of title 28, United States Code, to limit the duration of Federal consent decrees to which State and local governments are a party, and for other purposes.

S. 549

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 549, a bill to extend a certain high priority corridor in the States of Colorado, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

S. 580

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 580, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow certain modifications to be made to qualified mortgages held by a REMIC or a grantor trust.

S. 603

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 603, a bill to amend the Consumer Credit Protection Act to assure meaningful disclosures of the terms of rental-purchase agreements, including disclosures of all costs to consumers under such agreements, to provide certain substantive rights to consumers under such agreements, and for other purposes.

S. 614

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms.

COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 614, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to permit medicare-eligible veterans to receive an out-patient medication benefit, to provide that certain veterans who receive such benefit are not otherwise eligible for medical care and services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 619

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) 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. 647

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 647, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to authorize physical therapists to evaluate and treat medicare beneficiaries without a requirement for a physician referral, and for other purposes.

S. 750

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 750, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow look-through treatment of payments between related foreign corporations.

S. 756

At the request of Mr. BENNETT, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) were added as cosponsors 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. 828

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor 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. 853

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 853, a bill to direct the Secretary of State to establish a program to bolster the mutual security and safety of the United States, Canada, and Mexico, and for other purposes.

S. 859

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 859, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an income tax credit for the provision of homeownership and community development, and for other purposes.

S. 863

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor 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. 877

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 877, a bill to provide for a biennial budget process and a biennial appropriations process and to enhance oversight and the performance of the Federal Government.

S. 980

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 980, a bill to provide state and local governments with financial assistance that will increase their ability and effectiveness in monitoring convicted sex offenders by developing and implementing a program using global positioning systems to monitor convicted sexual offenders or sexual predators released from confinement.

S. 1002

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1002, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make improvements in payments to hospitals under the medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 1022

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1022, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow for an energy efficient appliance credit.

S. 1057

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1057, a bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to revise and extend that Act.

S. 1062

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1062, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage.

S. 1076

At the request of Mr. TALENT, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 1076, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the excise tax and income tax credits for the production of biodiesel.

S. 1104

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1104, a bill to amend titles XIX and XXI

of the Social Security Act to provide States with the option to cover certain legal immigrants under the medicaid and State children's health insurance programs.

S. 1123

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1123, a bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain microphones used in automotive interiors.

S. 1160

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1160, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restore, increase, and make permanent the exclusion from gross income for amounts received under qualified group legal services plan.

S.J. RES. 12

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 12, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

S. CON. RES. 16

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 16, a concurrent resolution conveying the sympathy of Congress to the families of the young women murdered in the State of Chihuahua, Mexico, and encouraging increased United States involvement in bringing an end to these crimes.

S. CON. RES. 24

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 24, a concurrent resolution expressing the grave concern of Congress regarding the recent passage of the anti-secession law by the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China.

S. RES. 39

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 39, a resolution apologizing to the victims of lynching and the descendants of those victims for the failure of the Senate to enact anti-lynching legislation.

S. RES. 42

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 42, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on promoting initiatives to develop an HIV vaccine.

S. RES. 134

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Michigan

(Mr. LEVIN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 134, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the massacre at Srebrenica in July 1995.

S. RES. 155

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) were added as cosponsors 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.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DEMINT:

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

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, today I introduce the Secret Ballot Protection Act, a measure that would amend the National Labor Relations Act, NLRA, to ensure the right of employees to a secret ballot election conducted by the National Labor Relations Board, NLRB, when deciding whether to be represented by a labor organization.

The legislation would prohibit a union from being recognized based on a "card check" campaign. Under a card check system, a union gathers authorization cards purportedly signed by workers expressing their desire for the union to represent them. By their very nature, card checks strip employees of the right to choose freely, safely, and anonymously, whether to unionize and leave them open to harassment, intimidation, and union pressure.

The bill also addresses the increasing pressure faced by employers from union bosses to recognize unions based on a card check campaign and forego the customary secret ballot election supervised by the National Labor Relations Board, NLRB, which gives workers the ability to vote their conscience without fear of reprisal.

Under current law, employers may voluntarily recognize unions based on these card checks, but are not required to do so. However, threats, boycotts, and other forms of public pressure are increasingly being used to force employers to recognize unions based on a card-check rather than the customary secret ballot election. The need for legislation to protect workers' rights could not be more clear.

It is no secret that hostile campaigns against American businesses to discredit employers have become a key

organizing tactic used by union bosses across the country. These and other pressure tactics are often designed to hurt employers, their workers, and the economy, unless the demands of union leaders are met. It is wrong that union bosses are using these types of tactics at the expense of secret ballot elections, depriving rank-and-file workers of the ability to freely vote their conscience without fear of retaliation.

The Secret Ballot Protection Act will preserve the integrity of workers' freedom of choice and the right to a secret ballot election; it will protect workers from fear, threats, misinformation, and coercion by a union or coworkers to sign union authorization cards; and it will eliminate a union's ability to coercively terrorize an employer into recognition under duress. These fundamental protections can be achieved by simply requiring unions to win a majority of worker support in an anonymous, secret ballot election which eliminates the shroud of union intimidation tactics.

Supporting the right to a private vote and outlawing the corrupt card check practice of allowing union thugs to bully, harass, and scare workers who object to union membership is absolutely critical to democracy and freedom of choice.

Secret ballots are an absolutely essential ingredient for any functioning democratic system. The lack of secret ballot elections is how oppressive regimes manage to stay in power without majority support. Repelling such oppression hinges on the ability to walk into a voting booth, pull the curtain, and vote for anyone or anything we please with confidence the vote will be counted but never revealed to anyone who could use the knowledge to retaliate.

Evidence clearly demonstrates that secret ballot elections are more accurate indicators than card checks of whether employees actually wish to be recognized by a union. Numerous court decisions echo this fact. For example, in the case *NLRB v. S.S. Logan Packing Co.*, the court said:

It would be difficult to imagine a more unreliable method of ascertaining the real wishes of employees than a card check, unless it were an employer's request for an open show of hands. The one is no more reliable than the other.

There is no question that card checks leave employees open to harassment, intimidation, and union pressure. Workers' democratic rights should be protected, and the Secret Ballot Protection Act will make sure that happens by preserving the secret ballot election process. This important measure would guarantee workers the right to an anonymous, secret ballot election conducted by the NLRB and eliminate the use of intimidation and threats by organizers to coerce workers into joining a union.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.