

"Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Iowa; Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD)" (FRL No. 8040-5) received on March 28, 2006; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6260. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Iowa" (FRL No. 8050-2) received on March 28, 2006; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6261. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulation of Fuel and Fuel Additives: Gasoline and Diesel Fuel Test Methods" (FRL No. 8052-1) received on March 28, 2006; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6262. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Guidelines for the Award of Monitoring Initiative Funds under Section 106 Grants to States, Interstate Agencies, and Tribes" (FRL No. 8051-3) received on March 28, 2006; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6263. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Notice 20 for Significant New Alternatives Policy Program" (FRL No. 8050-9) received on March 28, 2006; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LUGAR, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment:

S. 2489. An original bill to implement the obligations of the United States under the Protocol Additional to the Agreement between the United States of America and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards in the United States of America, signed by the United States on June 12, 1998 (Rept. No. 109-226).

By Mr. DOMENICI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment and with a preamble:

S.J. Res. 28. A joint resolution approving the location of the commemorative work in the District of Columbia honoring former President Dwight D. Eisenhower (Rept. No. 109-227).

By Mr. DOMENICI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment and with an amended preamble:

S. Con. Res. 60. A concurrent resolution designating the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, as America's National Negro Leagues Baseball Museum (Rept. No. 109-228).

## 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 Mrs. CLINTON:

S. 2488. A bill to require the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to conduct an inde-

pendent safety assessment of the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. LUGAR:

S. 2489. An original bill to implement the obligations of the United States under the Protocol Additional to the Agreement between the United States of America and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards in the United States of America, signed by the United States on June 12, 1998; from the Committee on Foreign Relations; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. COLEMAN:

S. 2490. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for a real estate stock index investment option under the Thrift Savings Plan; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 2491. A bill to award a Congressional gold medal to Byron Nelson in recognition of his significant contributions to the game of golf as a player, a teacher, and a commentator; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CHAMBLISS (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 2492. A bill to revise the boundaries of John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Jekyll Island Unit GA-06P; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 2493. A bill to provide for disclosure of fire safety standards and measures with respect to campus buildings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BURNS:

S. 2494. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction for the payment of premiums for high deductible health plans, to allow a credit for certain employment taxes paid with respect to premiums for high deductible health plans and contributions to health savings accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BYRD, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. ALLEN, and Mrs. DOLE):

S. 2495. A bill to authorize the National Mall Liberty Fund D.C. to establish a memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia to honor slaves and other persons that fought for independence, liberty, and justice for all during the American Revolution; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

S. 2496. A bill to expand the definition of immediate relative for purposes of the Immigration and Nationality Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 2497. A bill to authorize the Attorney General to award grants to State courts to develop and implement State courts interpreter programs; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. SMITH (for himself and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. Res. 420. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that effective treatment

and access to care for individuals with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis should be improved; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 65

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 65, a bill to amend the age restrictions for pilots.

S. 333

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) 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. 370

At the request of Mr. LOTT, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 370, a bill to preserve and protect the free choice of individual employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, or to refrain from such activities.

S. 424

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) 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. 527

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 527, a bill to protect the Nation's law enforcement officers by banning the Five-seven Pistol and 5.7 x 28mm SS190 and SS192 cartridges, testing handguns and ammunition for capability to penetrate body armor, and prohibiting the manufacture, importation, sale, or purchase of such handguns or ammunition by civilians.

S. 621

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 621, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the 15-year recovery period for the depreciation of certain leasehold improvements.

S. 633

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) 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. 811

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. CHAFEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 811, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the bicentennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln.

S. 1263

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1263, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to establish eligibility requirements for business concerns to receive awards under the Small Business Innovation Research Program.

S. 1691

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1691, a bill to amend selected statutes to clarify existing Federal law as to the treatment of students privately educated at home under State law.

S. 1719

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1719, a bill to provide for the preservation of the historic confinement sites where Japanese Americans were detained during World War II, and for other purposes.

S. 1791

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. THOMAS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1791, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction for qualified timber gains.

S. 2045

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2045, a bill to provide incentives to the auto industry to accelerate efforts to develop more energy-efficient vehicles to lessen dependence on oil.

S. 2048

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2048, a bill to direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission to classify certain children's products containing lead to be banned hazardous substances.

S. 2083

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2083, a bill to prohibit the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) from removing any item from the current list of items prohibited from being carried aboard a passenger aircraft.

S. 2140

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2140, a bill to enhance protection of children from sexual exploitation by strengthening section 2257 of title 18, United States Code, requiring producers of sexually explicit material to keep and permit inspection of records regarding the age of performers, and for other purposes.

S. 2201

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) was added as a co-

sponsor of S. 2201, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to modify the mediation and implementation requirements of section 40122 regarding changes in the Federal Aviation Administration personnel management system, and for other purposes.

S. 2370

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2370, a bill to promote the development of democratic institutions in areas under the administrative control of the Palestinian Authority, and for other purposes.

S. 2418

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2418, a bill to preserve local radio broadcast emergency and other services and to require the Federal Communications Commission to conduct a rulemaking for that purpose.

S. 2438

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2438, a bill to provide disaster assistance to agricultural producers for crop and livestock losses, and for other purposes.

S. 2484

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2484, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit the disclosure of tax return information by tax return preparers to third parties.

S. CON. RES. 84

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 84, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding a free-trade agreement between the United States and Taiwan.

S. RES. 180

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 180, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of a National Epidermolysis Bullosa Awareness Week to raise public awareness and understanding of the disease and to foster understanding of the impact of the disease on patients and their families.

S. RES. 405

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 405, a resolution designating August 16, 2006, as "National Airborne Day."

S. RES. 409

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Illi-

nois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 409, a resolution supporting democracy, development, and stabilization in Haiti.

S. RES. 419

At the request of Mr. FRIST, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 419, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the new United Nations Human Rights Council fails to adequately reform the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, thus preventing that body from becoming an effective monitor of human rights throughout the world.

AMENDMENT NO. 3193

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3193 proposed to S. 2454, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for comprehensive reform and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3204

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3204 intended to be proposed to S. 2454, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for comprehensive reform and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3205

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3205 intended to be proposed to S. 2454, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for comprehensive reform and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3206

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3206 proposed to S. 2454, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for comprehensive reform and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3210

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3210 proposed to S. 2454, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for comprehensive reform and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3210 proposed to S. 2454, supra.

AMENDMENT NO. 3213

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. TALENT) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3213 intended to be proposed to S. 2454, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for comprehensive reform and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3217

At the request of Mr. SARBANES, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3217 proposed to S. 2454, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for comprehensive reform and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. THOMAS), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3217 proposed to S. 2454, supra.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. COLEMAN:

S. 2490. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for a real estate stock index investment option under the Thrift Savings Plan; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 2490

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Real Estate Investment Thrift Savings Act of 2006”.

#### SEC. 2. REAL ESTATE STOCK INDEX INVESTMENT FUND.

(a) DEFINITION.—Section 8438(a) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (9), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (10), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(11) the term ‘Real Estate Stock Index Investment Fund’ means the Real Estate Stock Index Investment Fund established under subsection (b)(1)(F).”.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 8438(b)(1) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(F) a Real Estate Stock Index Investment Fund as provided in paragraph (5).”.

(2) FUND REQUIREMENTS.—Section 8438(b) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5)(A) The Board shall select an index which is a commonly recognized index com-

prised of common stock the aggregate market value of which is a reasonably complete representation of the United States real estate equity markets.

“(B) The Real Estate Stock Index Investment Fund shall be invested in a portfolio designed to replicate the performance of the index selected under subparagraph (A). The portfolio shall be designed such that, to the extent practicable, the percentage of the Real Estate Stock Index Investment Fund that is invested in each stock is the same as the percentage determined by dividing the aggregate market value of all shares of that stock by the aggregate market value of all shares of all stocks included in such index.”.

(c) ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISK.—Section 8439(d) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “or the Small Capitalization Stock Index Investment Fund,” and inserting “the Small Capitalization Stock Index Investment Fund, or the Real Estate Stock Index Investment Fund,”; and

(2) by striking “and (10),” and inserting “(10), and (11),”.

By Mr. BURNS:

S. 2494. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction for the payment of premiums for high deductible health plans, to allow a credit for certain employment taxes paid with respect to premiums for high deductible health plans and contributions to health savings accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation to help provide more affordable health coverage to millions of Americans. This legislation makes commonsense changes that will create tax parity between employer-sponsored insurance and insurance purchased in the individual market.

As we are well aware, the Federal tax code's treatment of medical care has shaped the development of the private third-party system of financing health care in the United States. The tax code treats the self-employed, unemployed, and workers at companies that do not offer health insurance, most of which are small businesses, less generously than it treats workers at companies that do offer health insurance. Employer-sponsored insurance receives a tax subsidy that individually-purchased insurance does not, and as a result two-thirds of non-elderly Americans receive health insurance through their own or a family member's employer.

Of equal concern, the percent of employer-sponsored insurance has dropped from 69 percent in 2000 to 60 percent in 2005 due mainly to the rapid rise in health insurance premiums, which have increased more than 60 percent in real terms over the past 5 years alone. The percent of the non-elderly population with employer-sponsored insurance has correspondingly dropped, from 68 percent in 2000 to 63 percent in 2004. Consequently, more Americans must look to the non-group market for their health insurance needs.

To help rectify this disparity, the legislation I am introducing today

would permit premiums for high-deductible plans purchased in conjunction with a qualifying health savings accounts (HAS) on the individual market to be deductible from income taxes. In addition, an income tax credit would offset payroll taxes paid on these premiums. As such, people who purchase their health benefits in the individual market would receive the same tax treatment as those who receive employer-sponsored insurance.

Perhaps one of the most widespread criticisms of HSA plans is that they are only helpful to those who are young, healthy, and wealthy. However, a recent survey conducted by America's Health Insurance Plans reveals this not to be the case. In that survey, it was shown that 50 percent of all people covered by HSA plans in the individual market are 40 years of age or older. Moreover, 31 percent of new enrollees in HSA plans were previously uninsured.

My legislation would provide substantial savings to middle and low income families. For example, a family in the 15 percent income tax bracket, and 15.3 percent payroll tax bracket, would receive a tax subsidy of over \$1,500 towards the purchase of a \$5,000 family insurance HSA-qualified policy.

Moreover, the income tax credit to offset payroll taxes is designed to help lower income workers. These hard-working Americans are more likely to work for firms that do not offer health insurance, and many have low enough incomes that they are paying no income taxes, but still must pay payroll taxes. My bill helps to give them the affordable and quality health benefits they deserve.

Since being enacted in the Medicare Modernization Act, health savings accounts have helped to provide millions of Americans with an additional option in meeting their health care needs. It is simply not fair that the law does not provide these plans with the same tax treatment provided to employer-sponsored insurance. If we are to seriously begin addressing the rapidly rising cost of health care, it is imperative that we take steps now to ensure that available health care plans are as affordable as possible.

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

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

S. 2494

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. DEDUCTION OF PREMIUMS FOR HIGH DEDUCTIBLE HEALTH PLANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part VII of subchapter B of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to additional itemized deductions for individuals) is amended by redesignating section 224 as section 225 and by inserting after section 223 the following new section: