

Whereas, substantial cuts in the force structure of the Air National Guard may be proposed as part of the Federal budget and Quadrennial Defense Review processes; and

Whereas, our nation and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania rely on the National Guard like never before to fight the global war on terrorism and to respond to domestic emergencies; and

Whereas, the National Guard offers tremendous capabilities as an essential part of our nation's total force for national defense while at the same time being available to the Governor to respond to emergencies in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

Whereas, the National Guard costs less than 5 percent of our nation's defense budget but provides the only military force shared by the Federal Government and the states; and

Whereas, the proposed elimination of combat brigades from the Army National Guard represents a shortsighted and ill-advised approach that will adversely affect national defense, homeland security and the ability to respond to state emergencies; and

Whereas, the 3 combat brigades of Pennsylvania's 28th Keystone Division have served with distinction at home and abroad since the September 11, 2001, attacks on the United States; and

Whereas, the Army has recognized the capabilities of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard by designating the 56th Brigade as the first and only Army National Guard Stryker Brigade Combat team in the nation; and

Whereas, major elements of Pennsylvania's 2nd Brigade Combat Team are currently deployed to one of the most dangerous areas of Iraq, the 55th Brigade deployed to Europe in Operation Keystone after the 9/11 attacks, and elements of the 56th Brigade deployed to Kosovo; and

Whereas, in response to Hurricane Katrina, virtually the entire 56th Brigade and other elements of the Pennsylvania Army and Air National Guard deployed to the Louisiana Gulf Coast region on short notice and provided vital emergency support; and

Whereas, the 3 combat brigades of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard are aligned to provide emergency response to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency's 3 regions; and

Whereas, more than 4,000 airmen of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard have performed close to 8,000 individual deployment events since 9/11, including initial war fighting support to Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom while supporting Operation Noble Eagle protecting our sovereign airspace at home; and

Whereas, major changes to the branch, organization or allotment of National Guard units require the approval of the Governor as commander-in-chief; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorialize the President and Congress of the United States to maintain the combat capabilities and force structure of the National Guard; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate urge the Secretary of Defense to reconsider and withdraw the proposed elimination of 6 combat brigades from the Army National Guard; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, to the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

POM-288. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of New Jersey relative to enacting the "School Energy Crisis Relief Act"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE RESOLUTION 13

Whereas, the "School Energy Crisis Relief Act," established in S.1997 and H.R. 4158, authorizes the U.S. Secretary of Energy to create a federal program of energy assistance grants to public school districts; and

Whereas, the "School Energy Crisis Relief Act" is designed to award school energy grants to the school districts that have experienced the highest percentage increase or expenditure increase in transportation and heating fuel costs among all school districts in each state for a specific time period during the 2005-2006 school year, in comparison to the same time period during the 2004-2005 school year; and

Whereas, many public agencies across the country are struggling to cope with a dramatic, unexpected surge in their energy costs, with schools facing an additional burden in that they operate large fleets of buses and heat large, sprawling buildings, and urban school districts are especially burdened by some of the nation's oldest, and often least, energy-efficient buildings; and

Whereas, these unanticipated energy costs are a great challenge, and many public school boards throughout the United States are facing a choice between paying their higher energy bills or cutting instructional staff and programs; and

Whereas, the "School Energy Crisis Relief Act" would allow the U.S. Secretary of Energy to award grants to public school districts that are among the top 10 percent of all districts in their state for numbers or percentages of children counted under section 1124(c) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6333(c)); and

Whereas, the grant amounts would be awarded based on the population of children between the ages 5 and 17 of that state according to the most recent federal decennial census, in comparison to all other states, as well as the regional cost of transportation and heating fuel in comparison with the average national cost, as determined by the most recent statistical data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration; and

Whereas, it is in the best interest of this State to support the enactment of the "School Energy Crisis Relief Act," in order to reduce the financial burden of higher heating and transportation costs affecting our Public school districts' now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:

1. The Senate of the State of New Jersey memorializes the U.S. Congress and President to enact S. 1997 and H.R. 4158, the "School Energy Crisis Relief Act," which establishes a federal program of energy assistance grants to local school districts.

2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the, President of the Senate and attested by the Secretary thereof, shall be transmitted to the President and the Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority and Minority leaders of the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives, and each member of the United States Congress elected from this State.

POM-289. A resolution adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders, Bergen County, State of New Jersey relative to denouncing the sale of six major United States port operations to Dubai Ports World; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

POM-290. A resolution adopted by the Township of Belleville, State of New Jersey, entitled "Resolution Opposing Governmental Approval or Approval by the Committee on

Foreign Investments for the Sale of Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co. to Dubai Ports World"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. STEVENS, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2012. A bill to authorize appropriations to the Secretary of Commerce for the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act for fiscal years 2006 through 2012, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 109-229).

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. THOMAS (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. ENZI):

S. 2498. 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; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2499. A bill to provide for the expeditious disclosure of records relevant to the life and assassination of Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr.; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. KERRY):

S. 2500. A bill to enhance the counseling and readjustment services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. DEWINE:

S. 2501. A bill for the relief of Manuel Bartsch; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 2502. A bill to provide for the modification of an amendatory repayment contract between the Secretary of the Interior and the North Unit Irrigation District, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. LINCOLN (for herself and Mr. THOMAS):

S. 2503. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an extension of the period of limitation to file claims for refunds on account of disability determinations by the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 2504. A bill to eliminate child poverty; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mr. DEWINE, and Mr. VOINOVICH):

S. 2505. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on aerosol valves designed to deliver a metered dose (50 microliters) of a pressurized liquid pharmaceutical; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. OBAMA (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. CLINTON, and Mr. KERRY):

S. 2506. A bill to require Federal agencies to support health impact assessments and take other actions to improve health and the environmental quality of communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. LEVIN) (by request):

S. 2507. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2007, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. COLEMAN):

S. Res. 421. A resolution calling on the Government of Afghanistan to uphold freedom of religion and urging the Government of the United States to promote religious freedom in Afghanistan; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COLEMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. DODD, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SANTORUM, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. STEVENS):

S. Res. 422. A resolution designating April 21, 2006, as "National and Global Youth Service Day", and for other purposes; considered and agreed to.

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

S. Res. 423. A resolution designating April 8, 2006, as "National Cushing's Syndrome Awareness Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. COLEMAN (for himself and Mr. DAYTON):

S. Con. Res. 85. A concurrent resolution honoring and congratulating the Minnesota National Guard, on its 150th anniversary, for its spirit of dedication and service to the State of Minnesota and the Nation and recognizing that the role of the National Guard, the Nation's citizen-soldier based militia, which was formed before the United States Army, has been and still is extremely important to the security and freedom of the Nation; to the Committee on Armed Services.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 25

At the request of Mr. CHAMBLISS, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 25, a bill to promote freedom, fairness, and economic opportunity by repealing the income tax and other taxes, abolishing the Internal Revenue Service, and enacting a national sales tax to be administered primarily by the States.

S. 633

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS) was added as a cospon-

sor 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. 666

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 666, a bill to protect the public health by providing the Food and Drug Administration with certain authority to regulate tobacco products.

S. 696

At the request of Mr. BURNS, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 696, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 regarding the transfer of students from certain schools.

S. 908

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) 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.

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 908, *supra*.

S. 1171

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1171, a bill to halt Saudi support for institutions that fund, train, incite, encourage, or in any other way aid and abet terrorism, and to secure full Saudi cooperation in the investigation of terrorist incidents, and for other purposes.

S. 1396

At the request of Mr. ALLEN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1396, a bill to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to provide incentives for small business investment, and for other purposes.

S. 1405

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 1405, a bill to extend the 50 percent compliance threshold used to determine whether a hospital or unit of a hospital is an inpatient rehabilitation facility and to establish the National Advisory Council on Medical Rehabilitation.

S. 1677

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1677, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the deduction for college tuition expenses and to expand such deduction to include expenses for books.

S. 1687

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from North Caro-

lina (Mrs. DOLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1687, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide waivers relating to grants for preventive health measures with respect to breast and cervical cancers.

S. 1864

At the request of Mr. TALENT, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1864, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain farming business machinery and equipment as 5-year property for purposes of depreciation.

S. 2305

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2305, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to repeal the amendments made by the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 requiring documentation evidencing citizenship or nationality as a condition for receipt of medical assistance under the Medicaid program.

S. 2321

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2321, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of Louis Braille.

S. 2322

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2322, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to make the provision of technical services for medical imaging examinations and radiation therapy treatments safer, more accurate, and less costly.

S. 2327

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2327, a bill to require the FCC to issue a final order regarding white spaces.

S. 2370

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) 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. 2381

At the request of Mr. FRIST, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2381, a bill to amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to provide line item rescission authority.

S. 2401

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr.