

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.

SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2401, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain energy tax incentives, and for other purposes.

S. 2416

At the request of Mr. BURNS, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2416, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the scope of programs of education for which accelerated payments of educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill may be used, and for other purposes.

S. 2471

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2471, a bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Basic Red 1 Dye.

S. 2472

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2472, a bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Basic Red 1:1 Dye.

S. 2473

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2473, a bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Basic Violet 11 Dye.

S. 2474

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2474, a bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Basic Violet 11:1 Dye.

S. CON. RES. 46

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 46, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the Russian Federation should fully protect the freedoms of all religious communities without distinction, whether registered and unregistered, as stipulated by the Russian Constitution and international standards.

S. RES. 313

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 313, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that a National Methamphetamine Prevention Week should be established to increase awareness of methamphetamine and to educate the public on ways to help prevent the use of that damaging narcotic.

S. RES. 371

At the request of Mr. THOMAS, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 371, a resolution designating July 22, 2006, as "National Day of the American Cowboy".

AMENDMENT NO. 3204

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD), the Senator from

Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) were added as cosponsors 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. 3213

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS) was added as a cosponsor 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 Ms. MIKULSKI, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) were added as cosponsors 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 3225

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3225 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. 3226

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3226 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. 3249

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3249 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.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, today I rise to introduce a taxpayer privacy bill.

Much attention has been focused recently on IRS-proposed changes to regulations regarding taxpayer privacy. Interestingly, these proposed changes have been widely—and incorrectly—reported as changing the law to allow tax preparers to sell taxpayer information to third parties for marketing purposes. In fact, an IRS regulation put

into place more than 30 years ago already allows confidential taxpayer information to be shared in this manner, as long as the taxpayer consents.

The public uproar that has surrounded the proposed changes to this regulation makes it clear that taxpayers are not aware of this fact and expect that their return information will be kept confidential. Confidentiality of taxpayer information is a key underpinning of our voluntary tax system, encouraging taxpayers to provide complete and honest returns.

The complexity of the tax code has resulted in 60 percent of all returns being completed by paid preparers. The process is a very intimidating one for most. Given the stress and vulnerability of taxpayers during the process, and the high dollar value of confidential taxpayer information, I am concerned that financially-motivated tax preparers may present the taxpayer with a stack of papers for the taxpayer to sign, including, unbeknownst to the taxpayer, a consent form to share the information with third parties. The taxpayer could easily be under the impression that all of the papers are required to be signed in order to have the return prepared, completely undermining the requirement of signed, informed consent.

In an era of lightning-fast electronic communication—in which information can travel around the world and back in a matter of seconds—and the proliferation of identity theft, it seems to me that we ought to bring the law in line with taxpayer expectations. When this regulation was promulgated back in 1974, our citizens weren't anywhere nearly as vulnerable to this crime as they are today. We have made changes with regard to credit reports and individuals' access to them, we have removed Social Security numbers from drivers' licenses and medical ID cards, and we need to similarly remove the threat of taxpayer information being shared in ways that are not condoned by the individual taxpayer. This bill would do just that by prohibiting tax preparers from both soliciting consent and sharing tax return information with third parties.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of this 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. 2498

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

SECTION 1. PROHIBITION OF TAX PREPARERS DISCLOSING TAX RETURN INFORMATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (3) of section 7216(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to regulations) is amended to read as follows:

“(3) REGULATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to a disclosure or use of information which is permitted by regulations prescribed by the Secretary under this section.