

must be completed by Senate members and staff, as well as trip sponsors, 30 days prior to their travel. We would be ready to issue these guidelines and forms on November 13. However, a number of proposed trips that have been submitted to the Committee for review begin on or shortly after November 13, and it would be highly unlikely that the additional paperwork could be completed for review by the Committee before these trips begin.

If the Committee on Rules and Administration extends the deadline for issuance of the guidelines until December 3, 2007, all privately-sponsored travel beginning on or after that date would be required to conform to the new rules and guidelines.

So that privately-sponsored travel starting on or after December 3, 2007, may meet the requirements of the new travel rules, the Committee intends on November 13, 2007, to post on its Web site a preview of the complete text of the new travel guidelines, and related regulations and forms, that the Committee will issue formally on December 3, 2007, if the Committee on Rules and Administrations grants the requested extension.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request,

Sincerely,

BARBARA BOXER,
Chairman.
JOHN CORNYN,
Vice Chairman.

EMANCIPATION HALL

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today, as chairman of the Senate Rules and Administration Committee, to voice my support of legislation to name the great hall in the new Capitol Visitor Center "Emancipation Hall."

This legislation—S.1679—was introduced by Senator MARY LANDRIEU on June 21, 2007, and is cosponsored by Senator BARACK OBAMA. I am proud to join them as a cosponsor.

A companion bill has been introduced in the House of Representatives by Representatives ZACH WAMP and JESSE JACKSON. The measure has over 225 cosponsors in the House and last week it was approved by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. It is my understanding that it will soon be taken up by the House, which earlier approved the proposal as part of the fiscal year 2008 legislative branch appropriations bill.

I encourage my colleagues in the Senate to support this legislation.

The naming of "Emancipation Hall" in the new Capitol Visitor Center would be a fitting tribute to the contributions of slaves in the construction of our Nation's Capitol Building. It would also serve to recognize the end of slavery in the United States.

The Capitol Visitor Center is nearing completion, and its Great Hall promises to be a spectacular place—an estimated 3 million people are expected to gather in the area as they come to visit our great Capitol each year.

And through large skylights in the ceiling, visitors will be able to look upwards and gaze upon the grand Capitol dome.

This environment is the perfect place for visitors to reflect upon the construction of the U.S. Capitol, and to

recognize the slaves who helped to build it.

The total number of slaves who worked on the Capitol is unknown. But there is evidence that slave workers contributed in a number of important ways to its construction. This includes a slave named Philip Reid who played an important role in the casting of the 19-foot, 15,000-pound bronze Statue of Freedom that rests atop the Capitol dome. Others are memorialized in pay stubs to their owners for work done in the Capitol.

Naming the Great Hall of the Capitol Visitor Center as "Emancipation Hall" would serve to recognize both the brutal truth of our Nation's past and the importance of freedom as a pillar of modern America.

The history of slavery in the United States is a grim chapter in our Nation's history. But the Emancipation Proclamation, issued by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, was an important step toward abolishing slavery in the United States.

In the Emancipation Proclamation, President Lincoln declared:

I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within said designated States, and parts of States, are, and henceforward shall be free; and that the Executive government of the United States, including the military and naval authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons.

While the Emancipation Proclamation did not officially abolish slavery in all of the United States, it was an important commitment by the government to end this centuries-long injustice.

By sustaining the history of this great act, we highlight the importance of freedom. And by naming the Capitol Visitor Center's main entry as "Emancipation Hall," we do so in a significant way that all visitors of our Nation's Capitol Building will notice and respect.

As chairman of the Senate Rules and Administration Committee and the Joint Committee on the Library, which oversees Capitol artwork, I believe it is very important to provide an accurate and diversified image of our Nation for the visitors to our Capitol. The naming of "Emancipation Hall" would be one step toward achieving that.

I also welcome a new report by the congressional Slave Labor Task Force, which has come forward with a number of recommendations for acknowledging and commemorating the work slaves performed in building our Capitol.

I look forward to working with the task force on this issue so people throughout the world will know more about the contribution by slaves toward constructing the building that has become the very foundation of our democracy.

IDENTITY THEFT ENFORCEMENT AND RESTITUTION ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am disappointed that some Senator is pre-

venting the Senate from taking an important step forward to combat identity theft and to protect the privacy rights of all Americans by passing the Leahy-Specter Identity Theft Enforcement and Restitution Act of 2007. This bipartisan cyber crime bill, which was requested by the Department of Justice, will provide new tools to Federal prosecutors to combat identity theft and other computer crimes. I know that it is cleared for passage by all Democratic Senators.

The dangers of identity theft and other cyber crimes continue to increase as our Nation becomes more dependent on high technology. In fact, just last week, FBI Director Robert Mueller stated that "[c]yber threats will continue to grow as people become more and more dependent upon digital technology" and "we will be vulnerable to terrible attacks." Prompt Senate action on this bill will bring us one step closer to providing greatly needed tools to the Federal prosecutors and investigators who are on the front lines of the battle against identity theft and other cyber crimes. I urge those objecting to proceeding on this bill to reconsider their actions and allow the bill to be considered and passed.

I thank Senator SPECTER, who has been a valuable partner in combating the growing problem of identity theft for many years, for joining with me to introduce this important privacy bill. I have once again worked in a bipartisan manner with a group of Senators on both sides of the aisle to draft this legislation. I thank Senators DURBIN, GRASSLEY, SCHUMER, BILL NELSON, INOUE, STEVENS, and FEINSTEIN for joining with us as cosponsors of this important legislation.

I commend Senators BIDEN and HATCH for their contributions in this area. I am pleased that several provisions they have suggested to further strengthen this cyber crime legislation were included by amendment in this bill when it was considered and reported by the Judiciary Committee and that they, too, have now cosponsored our bill.

Senator SPECTER and I have worked closely with the Department of Justice in crafting this bill, and the Leahy-Specter Identity Theft Enforcement and Restitution Act has the strong support of the Department of Justice and the Secret Service. This bill is also supported by a broad coalition of business, high-tech and consumer groups, including Microsoft, Consumers Union, the Cyber Security Industry Alliance, the Business Software Alliance, AARP, and the Chamber of Commerce.

The Identity Theft Enforcement and Restitution Act takes several important and long overdue steps to protect Americans from the growing and evolving threat of identity theft and other cyber crimes. First, to better protect American consumers, our bill provides the victims of identity theft with the ability to seek restitution in Federal court for the loss of time and money

spent restoring their credit and remedying the harms of identity theft, so that identity theft victims can be made whole.

Second, because identity theft schemes are much more sophisticated and cunning in today's digital era, our bill also expands the scope of the Federal identity theft statutes so that the law keeps up with the ingenuity of today's identity thieves. Our bill adds three new crimes—passing counterfeit securities, mail theft, and tax fraud—to the list of predicate offenses for aggravated identity theft. And, in order to better deter this kind of criminal activity, our bill also significantly increases the criminal penalties for these crimes. To address the increasing number of computer hacking crimes that involve computers located within the same State, our bill also eliminates the jurisdictional requirement that a computer's information must be stolen through an interstate or foreign communication in order to federally prosecute this crime.

Our bill also addresses the growing problem of the malicious use of spyware to steal sensitive personal information, by eliminating the requirement that the loss resulting from the damage to a victim's computer must exceed \$5,000 in order to federally prosecute this offense. The bill also carefully balances this necessary change with the legitimate need to protect innocent actors from frivolous prosecutions and clarifies that the elimination of the \$5,000 threshold applies only to criminal cases. In addition, our bill addresses the increasing number of cyber attacks on multiple computers by making it a felony to employ spyware or keyloggers to damage 10 or more computers, regardless of the aggregate amount of damage caused. By making this crime a felony, the bill ensures that the most egregious identity thieves will not escape with minimal punishment under Federal cyber crime laws.

Lastly, our bill strengthens the protections for American businesses, which are more and more becoming the focus of identity thieves, by adding two new causes of action under the cyber extortion statute—threatening to obtain or release information from a protected computer and demanding money in relation to a protected computer—so that this bad conduct can be federally prosecuted. In addition, because a business as well as an individual can be a prime target for identity theft, our bill closes several gaps in the Federal identity theft and the aggravated identity theft statutes to ensure that identity thieves who target a small business or a corporation can be prosecuted under these laws. The bill also adds the remedy of civil and criminal forfeiture to the arsenal of tools to combat cyber crime, and our bill directs the U.S. Sentencing Commission to review its guidelines for identity theft and cyber crime offenses.

The Identity Theft Enforcement and Restitution Act is a good, bipartisan

measure to help combat the growing threat of identity theft and other cyber crimes to all Americans. This carefully balanced bill protects the privacy rights of American consumers, the interests of business, and the legitimate needs of law enforcement. This privacy bill also builds upon our prior efforts to enact comprehensive data privacy legislation. The Leahy-Specter Personal Data Privacy and Security Act, S. 495, which Senator SPECTER and I reintroduced earlier this year, would address the growing dangers of identity theft at its source—lax data security and inadequate breach notification. Protecting the privacy and security of American consumers should be one of the Senate's top legislative priorities, and I urge the majority leader to take up that measure at the earliest opportunity.

Again, I thank the bipartisan coalition of Senators who have joined Senator SPECTER and me in supporting this important privacy legislation, as well as the many consumer and business groups that support this bill. I urge whoever is holding up this bipartisan bill to stop delaying this measure so that the Senate can promptly pass this important and much needed privacy bill before the Thanksgiving recess.

I ask unanimous consent that a support letter from the Chamber of Commerce be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

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

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Washington, DC, November 2, 2007.

Hon. PATRICK LEAHY,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, U.S.
Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. ARLEN SPECTER,
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN LEAHY AND RANKING MEMBER SPECTER: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing more than three million businesses and organizations of every size, sector, and region, thanks you for your leadership on issues related to identity theft and other types of cyber crime. The Chamber strongly supports S. 2168, the "Identity Theft Enforcement and Restitution Act of 2007," and congratulates the Committee on the Judiciary for reporting favorably this important legislation.

The Internet today is a major engine of economic growth for the United States. Unfortunately, accompanying this amazing growth has been the continued rise of malicious cyber activity by very coordinated and clever criminal networks. S. 2168 will go a long way to address this very serious issue by giving law enforcement officials much needed tools and resources to combat these criminals.

Once again, the Chamber appreciates your leadership on these issues, and looks forward to working with the Committee to assure passage of S. 2168 by the full Senate.

Sincerely,

R. BRUCE JOSTEN,
Executive Vice President,
Government Affairs.

HEALTHY AMERICANS ACT

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, today, I join a bipartisan group of Senators in support of the Healthy Americans Act. This legislation marks the beginning of what I hope will be a growing bipartisan effort to address one of our most daunting domestic challenges—health care reform. Historically, the issue of health care and how to solve our growing crisis has divided us, but we must find a way to come together and provide leadership on an issue that is central to the lives and finances of millions of Americans.

There are over 47 million uninsured people in America today; another 16 million are underinsured. Diminished health and shorter life spans due to lack of health insurance cost an estimated \$65 to \$130 billion annually. Meanwhile, an estimated \$35 billion in uncompensated care is delivered to uninsured individuals annually.

The ever-rising costs of health care are being felt by all Americans, not only those who are uninsured. When I speak to constituents in my home State of Connecticut, I am struck by the number of currently insured families who worry about maintaining that coverage. With premiums rising more rapidly than wages, it is increasingly difficult for these families to continue to afford their coverage.

And the costs are certain to continue rising. Health spending between 2006 and 2015 will total \$30.3 trillion and will grow at an average rate of 7.2 percent—2.3 percent higher than the average annual GDP growth rate. To bring the growth in health care spending into line with the annual GDP growth rate, we would need to decrease health care spending by \$3 trillion over this period.

But while we spend more than any other nation in the world on health care, Americans do not receive the highest quality of care. A 2003 study published in the New England Journal of Medicine found that in the U.S., appropriate medical care is provided to individuals approximately 50 percent of the time.

It is clear that we must work across party and ideological lines to cover those that are uninsured in this Nation, provide health security to those hardworking families with insurance, bring the rising costs of health care under control, and provide high quality care to all. In the past, I have advocated for, and have proposed, targeted reforms to our health care system. I proposed the creation of a program called MediKids to insure all children in America from the moment of their birth to 25 years of age. Families would choose from a menu of private health care plans and pay based on their income. And for the millions of uninsured adults in the U.S., I proposed the establishment of a program called MediChoice, which would create large pools of coverage to bring the cost of health insurance down, and would provide the uninsured, the self-employed,