

companies and consumers from significant increases in energy costs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 486. A bill to establish requirements for lenders and institutions of higher education in order to protect students and other borrowers receiving educational loans; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Mr. BOND, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. PRYOR, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 487. A bill to amend the National Organ Transplant Act to clarify that kidney paired donations shall not be considered to involve the transfer of a human organ for valuable consideration; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. BIDEN:

S. Res. 64. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Foreign Relations; from the Committee on Foreign Relations; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. BIDEN:

S. Res. 65. A resolution condemning the murder of Turkish-Armenian journalist and human rights advocate Hrant Dink and urging the people of Turkey to honor his legacy of tolerance; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. Res. 66. A resolution honoring the life, achievements, and distinguished career of the Reverend Robert F. Drinan, S.J.; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. DOLE:

S. Res. 67. A resolution designating March 2007 as "Go Direct Month"; considered and agreed to.

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

S. Res. 68. A resolution commending the Miss America Organization for its long-standing commitment to quality education and the character of women in the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. VITTER (for himself and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. Con. Res. 8. A concurrent resolution expressing the support of Congress for the creation of a National Hurricane Museum and Science Center in southwest Louisiana; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 65

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 65, a bill to modify the age-60 standard for certain pilots and for other purposes.

S. 80

At the request of Mr. STEVENS, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 80, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for 8 weeks of

paid leave for Federal employees giving birth and for other purposes.

S. 254

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI), the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 254, a bill to award posthumously a Congressional gold medal to Constantino Brumidi.

S. 261

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) were added as cosponsors of S. 261, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to strengthen prohibitions against animal fighting, and for other purposes.

S. 355

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 355, a bill to establish a National Commission on Entitlement Solvency.

S. 359

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 359, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide additional support to students.

S. 368

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 368, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to enhance the COPS ON THE BEAT grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 374

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 374, 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.

S. 388

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) were added as cosponsors of S. 388, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a national standard in accordance with which nonresidents of a State may carry concealed firearms in the State.

S. 398

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 398, a bill to amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act to identify and remove barriers to reducing child abuse, to provide for examinations of certain children, and for other purposes.

S. 402

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as cosponsors of S. 402, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction for qualified timber gains.

S. 413

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 413, 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. 430

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 430, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance the national defense through empowerment of the Chief of the National Guard Bureau and the enhancement of the functions of the National Guard Bureau, and for other purposes.

S. 433

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 433, a bill to state United States policy for Iraq, and for other purposes.

S. 439

At the request of Mr. REID, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 439, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation.

S. 455

At the request of Mr. SMITH, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 455, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief to active duty military personnel and employers who assist them, and for other purposes.

S. 470

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 470, a bill to express the sense of Congress on Iraq.

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 470, supra.

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 470, supra.

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 470, supra.

S. CON. RES. 7

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 7, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress on Iraq.

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 7, *supra*.

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 7, *supra*.

S. RES. 23

At the request of Mr. SMITH, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 23, a resolution designating the week of February 5 through February 9, 2007, as "National School Counseling Week".

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. ALLARD (for himself and Mr. SALAZAR):

S. 472. A bill to authorize a major medical facility project for the Department of Veterans Affairs at Denver, Colorado; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, today I am introducing a bill to fully authorize the necessary funds needed to complete the construction of a new VA medical facility near Denver, CO. I am joined by my colleague Senator SALAZAR on this important legislation. Thankfully, Congress authorized approximately 16 percent of the needed funds for this project last year in order to finalize planning and site acquisition. That is a promising start that enables the project planners to begin the serious business of building this hospital. Although this was a tremendous step forward, there is still a great deal more that needs to be accomplished in order for this hospital to become a reality.

The current Denver VA hospital was built "more than 50 years ago and as we are all well aware, medical technology has far surpassed what the builders of the Denver VA originally envisioned. This facility, which hosted the first liver transplant in 1963, has provided tremendous care over the years, but simply does not have the infrastructure to continue to provide our veterans the care they need in the 21st century. While I cannot say enough about the care and service our veterans receive at the current facility, many changes and improvements can and should be made, and a new facility is the only way to accomplish these goals.

This new VA hospital to be located at Fitzsimons campus and the former home of the Fitzsimons Army Medical Center will carry on a strong tradition of providing exceptional medical care for our Nation's best and bravest citizens. The current Fitzsimons campus first began treating wounded veterans in 1918, specializing in assisting those who had been victims of chemical weapons in world War I. The facility continued to grow through the 20th century and became one of the pre-

miere Veterans hospitals through World War II. Fitzsimons was even unofficially deemed the "White House of the West" when President Eisenhower spent 7 weeks in the facility while recovering from a heart condition in 1955. Fitzsimons Hospital was even the birthplace of my colleague, Senator KERRY.

The new facility will provide an example of successful collaboration between numerous parties and will be the culmination of years of hard work. The Denver VA, the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center and the University of Colorado Hospital already have a complex and rewarding partnership in meeting veterans' healthcare needs in the region, and all are partnered together on this unique project. The University of Colorado, who currently owns the land for the new hospital, strongly supports the move of the existing Denver VA medical facility to the Fitzsimons Campus in Aurora, CO, and looks forward to strengthening their partnership with the Veterans Administration, allowing each entity to focus on its strengths.

Of course, the biggest endorsement of this new facility comes ultimately from the end-users: our veterans. The United Veterans Committee of Colorado, a coalition of 45 federally chartered veterans' service organizations, strongly supports the relocation of the Denver VA medical center to the Fitzsimons campus and has worked closely with my office and the Colorado congressional delegation over the years to ensure its success.

Of course, not too long ago it looked like this project was in peril. Thankfully, in 2005 Secretary Nicholson brought a much-needed, fresh perspective to this project. He made it a priority and made it clear to the entire Colorado delegation that he would pursue every opportunity to make the project a reality. I commend his efforts and thank him for his support. It is also important to mention the hard work and diligence of those in Colorado who have also worked to ensure the success of this new hospital. Without the extraordinary efforts put forth by the Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority and its chairman, city of Aurora Mayor Ed Tauer, an agreement would not have been reached on the ultimate location of the Hospital.

I strongly support authorization of this hospital and look forward to seeing the completion of the new VA medical facility which undoubtedly will serve as a regional beacon for modern veteran medical care science not only for veterans in Colorado but throughout the entire Rocky Mountain region as well.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, today Senator ALLARD and I are introducing a bill that will authorize full funding for a state-of-the-art veterans' hospital at the Fitzsimons campus in Aurora, CO.

This crown jewel of our veterans' health system will serve more than

424,000 veterans who live in Colorado, and many more who live in nearby States, with the best available health care. Our veterans deserve the best, and Fitzsimons will be the best.

Since the VA identified the Fitzsimons VA Hospital as one of its top medical construction projects in 2004, I have fought to move this project forward, although we've encountered some hurdles along the way.

But we are making progress. I helped bring all the stakeholders together in 2005 so that supporters of the project, and advocates for veterans' health care, could speak with one voice on Fitzsimons. Thanks in part to this dialogue, in February of 2006 the VA finally reached agreement with the Fitzsimons Authority on the purchase price of 24 acres at the site.

And just 2 months ago, in December, I was pleased that the omnibus veterans' bill we passed, S. 3421, included a \$98 million authorization for Fitzsimons that was so desperately needed to keep the project on track. Senator ALLARD and I fought hard for that authorization because it allowed the VA to use unspent project funds from previous years, and to begin spending more on the critical initial phases of the project.

Today, Senator ALLARD and I are introducing a bill that will complete the authorization for Fitzsimons VA Hospital. Our bill authorizes the remaining \$523 million necessary to complete the project. It is a straightforward bill that we should pass as soon as possible to ensure we don't run into any costly construction delays down the road.

I spoke with Secretary Nicholson about this project just last week, and he reiterated his commitment to getting this project done as soon as possible. Just as the VA must keep Fitzsimons at the top of its priority list, so too should Congress do its part by completing the authorization for the project.

I look forward to the day when our veterans can enjoy the benefits of a new state-of-the-art facility at Fitzsimons. They have more than earned the high quality care they will receive there, and I urge this body to keep the project on track by passing this bill as soon as possible.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 473. A bill to improve the prohibitions on money laundering, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of a bill that I am introducing today, the Combating Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Act of 2007.

The life-blood of any criminal organization or enterprise is money. Whether engaged in drug dealing or terrorism, criminals cannot operate without money. The targeting of efforts by criminals to hide illegitimate funds in legitimate financial institutions has long been a focus of law enforcement.