

groups; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KOHL (for himself, Mr. DOMENICI, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. LEVIN, and Mrs. CLINTON):

S. 1577. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to require screening, including national criminal history background checks, of direct patient access employees of skilled nursing facilities, nursing facilities, and other long-term care facilities and providers, and to provide for nationwide expansion of the pilot program for national and State background checks on direct patient access employees of long-term care facilities or providers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. INOUE (for himself and Mr. STEVENS):

S. 1578. A bill to amend the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 to establish vessel ballast water management requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SNOWE (for herself, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. LEVIN):

S. 1579. A bill to amend the Coastal Zone Management Act; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. INOUE (for himself, Mr. STEVENS, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 1580. A bill to reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 1581. A bill to establish an interagency committee to develop an ocean acidification research and monitoring plan and to establish an ocean acidification program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. INOUE (for himself, Mr. STEVENS, Ms. CANTWELL, and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 1582. A bill to reauthorize and amend the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. INOUE (for himself and Mr. STEVENS) (by request):

S. 1583. A bill to reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, and for other coral conservation purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. INOUE (for himself and Mr. STEVENS) (by request):

S. 1584. A bill to reauthorize and amend the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. DODD, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BYRD, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. VOINOVICH):

S. Res. 224. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the Israeli-Palestinian peace process; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BIDEN (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. Res. 225. A resolution designating the month of August 2007 as "National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs.

MURRAY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. INOUE, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. BAYH, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. CASEY, Mr. NELSON of Florida, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. Res. 226. A resolution recognizing the month of November as "National Homeless Youth Awareness Month"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. Res. 227. A resolution congratulating the Johns Hopkins University Blue Jays for winning the 2007 NCAA Division I Men's Lacrosse Championship; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. Res. 228. A resolution congratulating the Brown University women's crew team for winning the 2007 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Women's Rowing Championship; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself and Mr. MARTINEZ):

S. Res. 229. A resolution honoring William Clifton France; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. SMITH, Mr. NELSON of Florida, and Mrs. HUTCHISON):

S. Con. Res. 37. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress on federalism in Iraq; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 35

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 35, a bill to amend section 7209 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 and for other purposes.

S. 329

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 329, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage for cardiac rehabilitation and pulmonary rehabilitation services.

S. 508

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 508, a bill to amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to apply whistleblower protections available to certain executive branch employees to legislative branch employees, and for other purposes.

S. 535

At the request of Mr. DODD, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of S. 535, a bill to establish an Unsolved Crimes Section in the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, and an Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Investigative Office in the Civil Rights Unit of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and for other purposes.

S. 543

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 543, a bill to improve Medicare beneficiary access by extending the 60 percent compliance threshold used to determine whether a hospital or unit of a hospital is an inpatient rehabilitation facility under the Medicare program.

S. 590

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the investment tax credit with respect to solar energy property and qualified fuel cell property, and for other purposes.

S. 626

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 626, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for arthritis research and public health, and for other purposes.

S. 667

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 667, a bill to expand programs of early childhood home visitation that increase school readiness, child abuse and neglect prevention, and early identification of developmental and health delays, including potential mental health concerns, and for other purposes.

S. 674

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 674, a bill to require accountability and enhanced congressional oversight for personnel performing private security functions under Federal contracts, and for other purposes.

S. 691

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 691, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the benefits under the Medicare program for beneficiaries with kidney disease, and for other purposes.

S. 746

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) were added as cosponsors of S. 746, a bill to establish a competitive grant program to build capacity in veterinary medical education and expand the workforce of veterinarians engaged in public health practice and biomedical research.

S. 773

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 773, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to

pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.

S. 805

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 805, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to assist countries in sub-Saharan Africa in the effort to achieve internationally recognized goals in the treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS and other major diseases and the reduction of maternal and child mortality by improving human health care capacity and improving retention of medical health professionals in sub-Saharan Africa, and for other purposes.

S. 807

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 807, a bill to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 to provide that manure shall not be considered to be a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.

S. 838

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 838, a bill to authorize funding for eligible joint ventures between United States and Israeli businesses and academic persons, to establish the International Energy Advisory Board, and for other purposes.

S. 968

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 968, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide increased assistance for the prevention, treatment, and control of tuberculosis, and for other purposes.

S. 1070

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1070, a bill to amend the Social Security Act to enhance the social security of the Nation by ensuring adequate public-private infrastructure and to resolve to prevent, detect, treat, intervene in, and prosecute elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and for other purposes.

S. 1113

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1113, a bill to facilitate the provision of care and services for members of the Armed Forces for traumatic brain injury, and for other purposes.

S. 1154

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1154, a bill to promote biogas production, and for other purposes.

S. 1172

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New York

(Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1172, a bill to reduce hunger in the United States.

S. 1226

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1226, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to establish programs to improve the quality, performance, and delivery of pediatric care.

S. 1239

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1239, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the new markets tax credit through 2013, and for other purposes.

S. 1252

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1252, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for uniformity in the awarding of disability ratings for wounds or injuries incurred by members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 1295

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1295, a bill to amend the African Development Foundation Act to change the name of the Foundation, modify the administrative authorities of the Foundation, and for other purposes.

S. 1356

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1356, a bill to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to establish industrial bank holding company regulation, and for other purposes.

S. 1428

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1428, a bill to amend part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to assure access to durable medical equipment under the Medicare program.

S. 1457

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 1457, a bill to provide for the protection of mail delivery on certain postal routes, and for other purposes.

S. 1459

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1459, a bill to strengthen the Nation's research efforts to identify the causes and cure of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis, expand psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis data collection, study access to and quality of

care for people with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis, and for other purposes.

S. 1500

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1500, a bill to support democracy and human rights in Zimbabwe, and for other purposes.

S. 1514

At the request of Mr. DODD, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1514, a bill to revise and extend provisions under the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act.

S. 1518

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1518, a bill to amend the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to reauthorize the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1543

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1543, a bill to establish a national geothermal initiative to encourage increased production of energy from geothermal resources, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 30

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 30, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the need for the United States to address global climate change through the negotiation of fair and effective international commitments.

S. RES. 105

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 105, a resolution designating September 2007 as "Campus Fire Safety Month".

S. RES. 171

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 171, a resolution memorializing fallen firefighters by lowering the United States flag to half-staff on the day of the National Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

S. RES. 215

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 215, a resolution designating September 25, 2007, as "National First Responder Appreciation Day".

AMENDMENT NO. 1159

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1159 intended to be proposed to S. 1348, a bill to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1179

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1179 intended to be proposed to S. 1348, a bill to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1236

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1236 intended to be proposed to S. 1348, a bill to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1259

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1259 intended to be proposed to S. 1348, a bill to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1260

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1260 intended to be proposed to S. 1348, a bill to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1279

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1279 intended to be proposed to S. 1348, a bill to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1311

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1311 proposed to S. 1348, a bill to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1318

At the request of Mr. CHAMBLISS, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1318 intended to be proposed to S. 1348, a bill to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1335

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1335 intended to be proposed to S. 1348, a bill to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1392

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr.

DURBIN) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1392 intended to be proposed to S. 1348, a bill to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1455

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1455 intended to be proposed to S. 1348, a bill to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 1561. A bill to amend title 11, United States Code, with respect to exceptions to discharge in bankruptcy for certain qualified educational loans; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I would like to tell you about Connie Martin from Sycamore, IL. Connie's son decided to go to culinary school in Chicago 5 years ago at the age of 25. To pay for tuition, he borrowed \$58,000 in private loans from Sallie Mae at 18 percent interest. His first payment was \$1,100 a month—his entire monthly salary at a downtown eatery where he worked after graduation. His loan balance, including government-backed loans, is now \$100,000. Connie's son has been working hard, and she and her husband have been trying to help him make the payments. I worry for borrowers like Connie's son who can't start over and will have debt that will likely haunt him for the rest of his life.

The Chicago Sun-Times recently ran a story that described the devastating effect large student loan debt has on the lives of borrowers. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following article from the Chicago Sun-Times be inserted for the RECORD.

Private student loans are the fastest growing and most profitable sector of the student loan industry. As college tuition continues to rise, the private loan market flourishes. According to the College Board, tuition, fees, room and board at public 4-year schools have risen by 42 percent over the past 5 years from \$9,032 to \$12,796. Add books, supplies, transportation and other living expenses, and the total increases to \$16,357 for those paying instate tuition and \$26,304 for those paying out-of-state tuition. Students rely on private loans to pay for any unmet need that Federal loans and grants fail to cover. According to the College Board, since 2001 the market for private student loans has grown at an annual rate of 27 percent to \$17.3 billion in 2006—roughly 20 percent of total student borrowing. Ten years ago, only 5 percent of total education loan volume was in private loans.

Private student loans are more profitable than Federal student loans be-

cause lenders can charge whatever interest rate students will pay, barring State usury laws. The interest rates and fees on private loans can be as onerous as credit cards. There are reports of private loans with interest rates of at least 15 percent and often much higher. Unlike Federal student loans, there is no government-imposed loan limit on private loans and no regulation over the terms and cost of these loans.

Today, I am pleased to introduce a bill that will give students, who find themselves in dire financial straits, a chance at a new beginning. My bill takes the bankruptcy law, as it pertains to private student loans, back to where it was before the law was amended in 2005. Under this legislation, privately issued student loans will once again be dischargeable in bankruptcy. My bill also clarifies that existing protections are specific to loans that were issued by or are guaranteed by State and Federal Government.

Federally issued or guaranteed student loans have been protected during personal bankruptcy since 1978. This provision protects Federal investments in higher education. In 2005, a provision was added to law to protect the investments of private lenders participating in the student loan industry. This change in the law creates a couple of problems. First, extending protections to private lenders of student loans but not to other potential creditors who are at risk in a bankruptcy disposition is inherently unfair. Second, such protections are unfair to the debtor. Repayment schedules—with accumulating interest—can extend for decades.

With the 2005 protections in place, there is essentially no risk to lenders making high-cost private loans to people who may not be able to afford them. There is no risk to private lenders extending credit to students at schools with low graduation rates and even lower job placement rates.

Giving private loans such high status in bankruptcy also puts other creditors at a significant disadvantage. No one seems to know how or why private student loans gained this status in 2005. There is nothing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD explaining the reasons behind the change. Why should a private student loan lender be able to jump to the front of the creditor line—in front of the local furniture store or the neighborhood plumber? This bill seeks to restore treatment of privately issued student loans in bankruptcy to the same treatment as any other debt.

There is justification for making Federal loans hard to discharge: they are backed by taxpayer dollars, and they come with some borrower protections in cases of economic hardship, unemployment, death and disability. However, private loans involve only private profit and do not have the protections that government borrowers enjoy, including caps on interest rates, flexible repayment options, and limited