

accordance with a schedule so that those with the most serious health problems related to asbestos exposure would receive the most money, with maximum damages capped at \$1 million; and

Whereas, Senate Bill 852 has drawn reservations and opposition from many members of the United States Congress, organized labor and consumer groups, and some insurance companies, arguing that the bill would allow big businesses to avoid financial responsibility and that the fund would not adequately compensate all of the victims; and

Whereas, because contributions to the trust fund are capped at \$27.5 million per company per year, several Fortune 500 companies stand to save billions of dollars under the bill and many companies will be liable for only 10 to 20 cents of every dollar that they would have owed if the cases went to court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. This House opposes the "Fairness in Asbestos Injury Resolution Act of 2005," currently pending in the United States Senate as Senate Bill 852.

2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk thereof, shall be transmitted to the President and 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 Congress of the United States elected from this State.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. BYRD, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special Report entitled "Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals from the Concurrent Resolution for Fiscal Year 2008" (Rept. No. 110-87).

By Mr. LIEBERMAN, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 1099. A bill to amend chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, to make individuals employed by the Roosevelt Campobello International Park Commission eligible to obtain Federal health insurance.

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 Mrs. HUTCHISON:

S. 1647. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the windfall elimination provision and protect the retirement of public servants; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEVIN:

S. 1648. A bill for the relief of Guy Vang, Genevieve Chong Fong, Caroline Vang, and Meline "Melanie" Vang; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 1649. A bill to provide for 2 programs to authorize the use of leave by caregivers for family members of certain individuals performing military service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. SMITH, and Mr. WEBB):

S. 1650. A bill to establish a digital and wireless network technology program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. SMITH, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 1651. A bill to assist certain Iraqis who have worked directly with, or are threatened by their association with, the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. DOLE (for herself and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 1652. A bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 with respect to trade adjustment assistance for textile and apparel workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. VOINOVICH):

S. 1653. A bill to implement the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. KYL:

S. 1654. A bill to prohibit the sale or provision of caller ID spoofing services; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. BYRD):

S. 1655. A bill to establish improved mandatory standards to protect miners during emergencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. KERRY):

S. 1656. A bill to authorize loans for renewable energy systems and energy efficiency projects under the Express Loan Program of the Small Business Administration; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 1657. A bill to establish a small business energy efficiency program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. GREGG:

S. 1658. A bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to provide protection for child custody arrangements for parents who are members of the Armed Forces deployed in support of a contingency operation; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. GREGG:

S. 1659. A bill to limit the simultaneous deployment to combat zones of dual-military couples who have minor dependents; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. GREGG:

S. 1660. A bill to require studies on support services for families of members of the National Guard and Reserve who are undergoing deployment; to the Committee on Armed Services.

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

S. 1661. A bill to communicate United States travel policies and improve marketing and other activities designed to increase travel in the United States from abroad; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 1662. A bill to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to reauthorize the venture capital program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 1663. A bill to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to reauthorize the

New Markets Venture Capital Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. DEMINT, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. VITTER):

S. Res. 239. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the Administration should rigorously enforce the laws of the United States to substantially reduce illegal immigration and greatly improve border security; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 38

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 38, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a program for the provision of readjustment and mental health services to veterans who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, and for other purposes.

S. 147

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 147, a bill to empower women in Afghanistan, and for other purposes.

S. 456

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 456, a bill to increase and enhance law enforcement resources committed to investigation and prosecution of violent gangs, to deter and punish violent gang crime, to protect law-abiding citizens and communities from violent criminals, to revise and enhance criminal penalties for violent crimes, to expand and improve gang prevention programs, and for other purposes.

S. 507

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 507, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for reimbursement of certified midwife services and to provide for more equitable reimbursement rates for certified nurse-midwife services.

S. 535

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) was added as a cosponsor 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 California (Mrs. BOXER) 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. 594

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 594, a bill to limit the use, sale, and transfer of cluster munitions.

S. 622

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 622, a bill to enhance fair and open competition in the production and sale of agricultural commodities.

S. 651

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 651, a bill to help promote the national recommendation of physical activity to kids, families, and communities across the United States.

S. 773

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, her name 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.

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 773, *supra*.

S. 807

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) 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. 871

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 871, a bill to establish and provide for the treatment of Individual Development Accounts, and for other purposes.

S. 901

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WEBB) was added as a cosponsor of S. 901, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide additional authorizations of appropriations for the health centers program under section 330 of such Act.

S. 932

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 932, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to authorize physical therapists to evaluate and

treat Medicare beneficiaries without a requirement for a physician referral, and for other purposes.

S. 941

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 941, a bill to increase Federal support for Community Health Centers and the National Health Service Corps in order to ensure access to health care for millions of Americans living in medically-underserved areas.

S. 946

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 946, a bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reauthorize the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, and for other purposes.

S. 961

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 961, a bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to provide benefits to certain individuals who served in the United States merchant marine (including the Army Transport Service and the Naval Transport Service) during World War II, and for other purposes.

S. 991

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 991, a bill to establish the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation under the authorities of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961.

S. 999

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 999, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve stroke prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation.

S. 1042

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1042, 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. 1146

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1146, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve health care for veterans who live in rural areas, and for other purposes.

S. 1149

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1149, a bill to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act to authorize the interstate distribution of State-in-

spected meat and poultry if the Secretary of Agriculture determines that the State inspection requirements are at least equal to Federal inspection requirements and to require the Secretary to reimburse State agencies for part of the costs of the inspections.

S. 1172

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1172, a bill to reduce hunger in the United States.

S. 1183

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1183, a bill to enhance and further research into paralysis and to improve rehabilitation and the quality of life for persons living with paralysis and other physical disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 1224

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1224, a bill to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

S. 1295

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) 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. 1310

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1310, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an extension of increased payments for ground ambulance services under the Medicare program.

S. 1323

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1323, a bill to prevent legislative and regulatory functions from being usurped by civil liability actions brought or continued against food manufacturers, marketers, distributors, advertisers, sellers, and trade associations for claims of injury relating to a person's weight gain, obesity, or any health condition associated with weight gain or obesity.

S. 1337

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1337, a bill to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to provide for equal coverage of mental health services under the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

S. 1382

At the request of Mr. REID, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), the Senator from

Louisiana (Mr. VITTER), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1382, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide the establishment of an Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Registry.

S. 1406

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1406, a bill to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to strengthen polar bear conservation efforts, and for other purposes.

S. 1415

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1415, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act and the Social Security Act to improve screening and treatment of cancers, provide for survivorship services, and for other purposes.

S. 1428

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) 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 name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1457, a bill to provide for the protection of mail delivery on certain postal routes, and for other purposes.

S. 1460

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1460, a bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Development Act of 2002 to support beginning farmers and ranchers, and for other purposes.

S. 1469

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1469, a bill to require the closure of the Department of Defense detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and for other purposes.

S. 1529

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1529, a bill to amend the Food Stamp Act of 1977 to end benefit erosion, support working families with child care expenses, encourage retirement and education savings, and for other purposes.

S. 1571

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1571, a bill to reform the

essential air service program, and for other purposes.

S. 1572

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1572, a bill to increase the number of well-trained mental health service professionals (including those based in schools) providing clinical mental health care to children and adolescents, and for other purposes.

S. 1592

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1592, a bill to reauthorize the Underground Railroad Educational and Cultural Program.

S. 1593

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) were added as cosponsors of S. 1593, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief and protections to military personnel, and for other purposes.

S. 1603

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1603, a bill to authorize Congress to award a gold medal to Jerry Lewis, in recognition of his outstanding service to the Nation.

S. 1605

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1605, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect and preserve access of Medicare beneficiaries in rural areas to health care providers under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 1606

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) were added as cosponsors of S. 1606, a bill to provide for the establishment of a comprehensive policy on the care and management of wounded warriors in order to facilitate and enhance their care, rehabilitation, physical evaluation, transition from care by the Department of Defense to care by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and transition from military service to civilian life, and for other purposes.

S. 1616

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1616, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to promote and assure the quality of biodiesel fuel, and for other purposes.

S. 1618

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1618, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit for the production of a cellulosic biofuel.

S. 1621

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1621, 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. 1638

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1638, a bill to adjust the salaries of Federal justices and judges, and for other purposes.

S. 1642

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1642, a bill to extend the authorization of programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 1

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 1, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that an artistic tribute to commemorate the speech given by President Ronald Reagan at the Brandenburg Gate on June 12, 1987, should be placed within the United States Capitol.

S. CON. RES. 22

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 22, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee should recommend to the Postmaster General that a commemorative postage stamp be issued to promote public awareness of Down syndrome.

S. RES. 171

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) 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 names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr.

AKAKA), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 215, a resolution designating September 25, 2007, as "National First Responder Appreciation Day".

S. RES. 224

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 224, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

S. RES. 231

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 231, a resolution recognizing the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day and expressing the sense of the Senate that history should be regarded as a means for understanding the past and solving the challenges of the future.

S. RES. 236

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 236, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the National Anthem Project, which has worked to restore America's voice by re-teaching Americans to sing the national anthem.

AMENDMENT NO. 1556

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1556 intended to be proposed to H.R. 6, a bill to reduce our Nation's dependency on foreign oil by investing in clean, renewable, and alternative energy resources, promoting new emerging energy technologies, developing greater efficiency, and creating a Strategic Energy Efficiency and Renewables Reserve to invest in alternative energy, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1610

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1610 proposed to H.R. 6, a bill to reduce our Nation's dependency on foreign oil by investing in clean, renewable, and alternative energy resources, promoting new emerging energy technologies, developing greater efficiency, and creating a Strategic Energy Efficiency and Renewables Reserve to invest in alternative energy, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1628

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1628 proposed to H.R. 6,

a bill to reduce our Nation's dependency on foreign oil by investing in clean, renewable, and alternative energy resources, promoting new emerging energy technologies, developing greater efficiency, and creating a Strategic Energy Efficiency and Renewables Reserve to invest in alternative energy, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 1649. A bill to provide for 2 programs to authorize the use of leave by caregivers for family members of certain individuals performing military service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today I introduce legislation that should, and could, have been law 1 year ago, the Military Family Support Act. This bill provides modest but significant relief for the families of the brave American soldiers deployed overseas. I was disappointed that, after passing the Senate last year as an amendment to the fiscal year 2007 Defense Department authorization bill, this provision was removed in conference. I am pleased to be joined in this effort by Senator CASEY.

As part of the predeployment process, military personnel with dependent children or other dependent family members designate a caregiver for their dependents. Dependents may be children, elderly parents, an ill sibling; anyone who requires care. These caregivers act in the deployed personnel's place to provide care during the period of deployment. The caregiver could be a spouse, parent, sibling, or other responsible adult who is capable of caring, and willing to care, for the dependents in question.

The bill that I am introducing today, the Military Family Support Act, would create two programs to provide additional leave options for persons who have been designated as caregivers. The bill would require the Office of Personnel Management, OPM, to create a program under which Federal employees who are designated as caregivers could use accrued annual or sick leave, leave bank benefits, and other leave available to them under title 5 for purposes directly relating to or resulting from their designation as a caregiver.

The second program would be administered by the Department of Labor for private sector employees. The Department would create a voluntary program, allowing private sector companies to create similar programs for their employees. Many companies across the country are already working with employees to provide support when an employee or a family member of an employee is called to active duty. I commend these companies for their compassion and understanding, and I

hope that this program would expand such options to more workers.

Lastly, this bill would require a report from the Government Accountability Office evaluating both the OPM and voluntary private sector program. If the report demonstrates that the program has helped military families, which I believe it will, Congress may act to expand the programs or make them permanent.

I want to be clear that the legislation I am introducing today specifically exempts Family Medical Leave Act leave from the types of leave that can be used by designated caregivers under this legislation. Last Congress, I introduced legislation to expand the FMLA to cover leave for designated caregivers. That legislation, however, met with opposition from some Members who object to the FMLA itself. While I continue to believe that this opposition is misguided and that family members of deployed servicemembers should be able to take leave under the FMLA, I have drafted this compromise measure to address those concerns.

This legislation has been endorsed by the National Military Family Association, the National Partnership for Women and Families, and the Military Officers Association of America.

In small towns and big cities all over this country, family members of deployed servicemembers are struggling to care for their children without their spouses' help. In addition, many servicemembers care for elderly parents and this responsibility often falls to a sibling or spouse when that servicemember is deployed abroad. While we may not be able to promise the safe return of each one of these brave men and women, we can provide this modest relief to their families here at home. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and I yield the floor.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill and letters of support be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 1649

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Military Family Support Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. PROGRAMS FOR USE OF LEAVE BY CAREGIVERS FOR FAMILY MEMBERS OF INDIVIDUALS PERFORMING CERTAIN MILITARY SERVICE.

(a) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES PROGRAM.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) CAREGIVER.—The term "caregiver" means an individual who—

(i) is an employee;

(ii) is at least 21 years of age; and

(iii) is capable of self care and care of children or other dependent family members of a qualified member of the Armed Forces.

(B) COVERED PERIOD OF SERVICE.—The term "covered period of service" means any period of service performed by an employee as a caregiver while the individual who designated the caregiver under paragraph (3) remains a qualified member of the Armed Forces.