

Whereas, as food stamp purchases made with Program benefits flow through grocery checkout lines, farmers' markets, and other outlets, those benefits generate almost double their value in economic activity, especially for many hard-pressed rural and urban communities desperately in need of business and job stimulus; and

Whereas, hunger has adverse consequences for all Coloradans, particularly for children and mothers; and

Whereas, too many people in our communities lack the resources to consistently put food on their tables for themselves and their families; and

Whereas, while the Program has substantially decreased malnutrition in our country and helps prevent the problem of hunger from becoming worse in our communities, the Program currently reaches only about one-half of eligible low-income working families; and

Whereas, food stamps outreach and nutrition education programs are useful tools in the fight against hunger, but these efforts need more resources in order to fully reach their potential; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-sixth General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein,

(1) That we, the Colorado General Assembly, support the passage of the 2007 Farm Bill;

(2) That we strongly urge Congress to place top priority on implementing a section of the Farm Bill on nutrition that would renew the provisions of, and improve upon, the Program; and

(3) That we further urge Congress: To improve the adequacy of benefits to help reduce hunger and ensure that everyone in the Program has the resources to assist them in purchasing and preparing a nutritionally adequate diet; to simplify the Program for clients and their caseworkers; and to continue to simplify and streamline the administrative aspects of the Program; and, be it further

Resolved, That copies of this Joint Memorial be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, United States Senator Tom Harkin, United States Representative Collin Peterson, the Colorado Anti-Hunger Network, and to each member of Colorado's Congressional delegation.

POM-139. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging Congress to take action regarding space exploration; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SENATE MEMORIAL 1005

Whereas, the United States is a nation of explorers; and

Whereas, when Christopher Columbus made his voyages across the Atlantic in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries his ships carried the inscription "Following the light of the sun, we left the Old World"; and

Whereas, exploration and discovery have been especially important to the American experience, providing vision, hope and economic stimulus, from New World pioneers and American frontiersmen to the Apollo program; and

Whereas just as Lewis and Clark could not have predicted the settlement of the American west within a hundred years of the start of their famous nineteenth century expedition, the total benefits of a single exploratory undertaking or discovery cannot be predicted in advance; and

Whereas, the desire to explore is part of our character and history has shown that space exploration benefits all humankind

through new technologies for everyday application, new jobs across the entire economic enterprise economic contributions through new markets, commercial products, education, inspiration, leadership, increased security and a legacy for future generations; and

Whereas, Arizona has been a leader in the exploration since the dawn of the space age, accounting for hundreds of millions of dollars in direct contracts in the entire state; and

Whereas, our nation's new vision for space exploration charts a new, "building block" strategy to explore destinations across our solar system with robots and humans, allowing our nation to remain competitive in the new industry of space commerce.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, prays:

1. That the Congress of the United States enact and fully fund the proposed vision for space exploration, as submitted to Congress in the fiscal year 2008 budget of the United States government, to enable the United States to remain a leader in the exploration and development of space.

2. That the Secretary of State transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of the Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-140. A joint resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Maine urging Congress to raise the weight limit on Interstate 95; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

JOINT RESOLUTION

Whereas, Interstate 95 in the State of Maine, which is part of the Dwight D. Eisenhower System of Interstate and Defense Highways and is governed by the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956, is central to Maine's commerce and industry; and

Whereas, the weight limit on the Interstate Highway System is set at 80,000 pounds by the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 and consequently by Maine statute, yet the State of Maine has a 100,000-pound limit on its secondary roads, which does not match the national limit; and

Whereas, the Federal Government has given the State of Maine an exemption from the 80,000-pound limit for the last 5 miles of the Maine Turnpike and Interstate 95, which allows for a 100,000-pound limit, and this exemption matches the limit for the rest of the State; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That We, your Memorialists, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to request that the United States Congress allow the State of Maine a 100,000-pound limit on all of the Interstate Highway System in Maine, not only the authorized 5 miles, and that the United States Congress review this request when the Highway Bill comes up for reauthorization; and be it further

Resolved, That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and to each Member of the Maine Congressional Delegation.

POM-141. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Maine urging Congress to enact the Social Security Fairness Act of 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

JOINT RESOLUTION

Whereas, Social Security is a trust fund that is intended as a compact between gen-

erations, yet it has not always been treated in a manner similar to other trust funds; and

Whereas, Maine's educators, transportation workers, police, firefighters and other civil servants, as well as their spouses, have collectively contributed tens of billions of dollars to Social Security and should in good faith receive such benefits as have been projected to them annually in their personalized Social Security statements; and

Whereas, the federal "government pension offset provision" and the federal "windfall elimination provision," enacted, respectively, in 1977 and 1983, have effectively treated state government pensions as if they were a provenance of Social Security, which they are not, and have in this treatment appropriated hundreds of billions of dollars previously entrusted to Social Security by the civil servants of 15 states and by their spouses; and

Whereas, by unfairly taking these hundreds of billions of dollars from just 15 states, including Maine, these twin federal policies have adversely and disproportionately affected Maine's ability to attract and retain effective and qualified workers, as well as Maine's overall economy, its schools, its tax base and its taxpayers and other residents; and

Whereas, the State of Maine has worked hard, over generations, to attract, retain and provide for its state workers in their retirement and has scrupulously guarded and invested the funds entrusted to its retirement system, bringing those reserves to 100 times the value they had just 4 decades ago; and

Whereas, federal legislation has been introduced entitled the Social Security Fairness Act of 2007, proposing to repeal these unfair takings from Maine and from other states; and

Whereas, all Members of the Maine Congressional Delegation are cosponsors of this legislation, along with more than 200 other members of Congress as of mid-February; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That We, your Memorialists, respectfully urge and request that the United States Congress enact the Social Security Fairness Act of 2007; and be it further

Resolved, That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States, the President of the Senate of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States and each Member of the Maine Congressional Delegation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Res. 225. A resolution designating the month of August 2007 as "National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month".

S. Res. 230. A resolution designating the month of July 2007 as "National Teen Safe Driver Month".

S. Res. 235. A resolution designating July 1, 2007 as "National Boating Day".

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 Mr. HAGEL (for himself, Mr. OBAMA, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 1672. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a scholarship program for students seeking a degree or certificate in the areas of visual impairment and orientation and mobility; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BINGAMAN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. LINCOLN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. HARKIN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. PRYOR):

S. 1673. A bill to facilitate the export of United States agricultural products to Cuba as authorized by the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000, to remove impediments to the export to Cuba of medical devices and medicines, to allow travel to Cuba by United States citizens, to establish an agricultural export promotion program with respect to Cuba, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SALAZAR:

S. 1674. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to give preference to local communities in the application consideration process for the conservation reserve program; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mr. McCAIN):

S. 1675. A bill to implement the recommendations of the Federal Communications Commission report to the Congress regarding low-power FM service; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself and Mr. INOUYE):

S. 1676. A bill to extend eligibility for certain Federal benefits to citizens of the Free-ly Associated States; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 1677. A bill to amend the Exchange Rates and International Economic Coordination Act of 1988 and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. SMITH, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. INOUYE):

S. 1678. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself and Mr. OBAMA):

S. 1679. A bill to provide that the great hall of the Capitol Visitor Center shall be known as Emancipation Hall; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. STEVENS):

S. 1680. A bill to provide for the inclusion of certain non-Federal land in the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge and the Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge in the State of Alaska, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

S. 1681. A bill to provide for a paid family and medical leave insurance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. BROWN:

S. Res. 248. A resolution honoring the life and achievements of Dame Lois Browne Evans, Bermuda's first female barrister and Attorney General, and the first female Opposition Leader in the British Commonwealth; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 21

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 21, a bill to expand access to preventive health care services that help reduce unintended pregnancy, reduce abortions, and improve access to women's health care.

S. 156

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) were added as cosponsors of S. 156, a bill to make the moratorium on Internet access taxes and multiple and discriminatory taxes on electronic commerce permanent.

S. 335

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 335, a bill to prohibit the Internal Revenue Service from using private debt collection companies, and for other purposes.

S. 431

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 431, a bill to require convicted sex offenders to register online identifiers, and for other purposes.

S. 558

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 558, a bill to provide parity between health insurance coverage of mental health benefits and benefits for medical and surgical services.

S. 582

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 582, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to classify automatic fire sprinkler systems as 5-year property for purposes of depreciation.

S. 604

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) were added as cosponsors of S. 604, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to limit increases in the certain costs of health care services under the health care programs of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

S. 630

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a co-

sponsor of S. 630, a bill to amend part C of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a minimum payment rate by Medicare Advantage organizations for services furnished by a critical access hospital and a rural health clinic under the Medicare program.

S. 704

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 704, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to prohibit manipulation of caller identification information.

S. 773

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) 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. 813

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 813, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an above-the-line deduction for attorney fees and costs in connection with civil claim awards.

S. 814

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 814, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the deduction of attorney-advanced expenses and court costs in contingency fee cases.

S. 838

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) 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. 911

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 911, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to advance medical research and treatments into pediatric cancers, ensure patients and families have access to the current treatments and information regarding pediatric cancers, establish a population-based national childhood cancer database, and promote public awareness of pediatric cancers.

S. 969

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 969, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to modify the definition of supervisor.

S. 1026

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, his name was added as a cosponsor of S.