

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. INOUE):

S. 1676. A bill to extend eligibility for certain Federal benefits to citizens of the Freely 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. INOUE):

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.

1026, a bill to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Augusta, Georgia, as the "Charlie Norwood Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center".

S. 1028

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1028, a bill to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a strategic refinery reserve, and for other purposes.

S. 1215

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1215, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend and improve certain authorities of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 1224

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) 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. 1239

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) 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. 1282

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1282, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the exclusion from gross income of certain wages of a certified master teacher, and for other purposes.

S. 1295

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) 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. 1359

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1359, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance public and health professional awareness and understanding of lupus and to strengthen the Nation's research efforts to identify the causes and cure of lupus.

S. 1363

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1363, a bill to improve health care for severely injured members and former members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 1409

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr.

DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1409, a bill to provide and enhance education, housing, and entrepreneur assistance for veterans who serve in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001, and for other purposes.

S. 1418

At the request of Mr. DODD, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1418, a bill to provide assistance to improve the health of newborns, children, and mothers in developing countries, and for other purposes.

S. 1431

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1431, a bill to provide for a statewide early childhood education professional development and career system, and for other purposes.

S. 1457

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) 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. 1469

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor 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. 1482

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1482, a bill to amend part A of title IV of the Social Security Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct research on indicators of child well-being.

S. 1494

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1494, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the special diabetes programs for Type I diabetes and Indians under that Act.

S. 1514

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor 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 New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) 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. 1571

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr.

WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1571, a bill to reform the essential air service program, and for other purposes.

S. 1588

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1588, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans provide coverage for treatment of a minor child's congenital or developmental deformity or disorder due to trauma, infection, tumor, or disease.

S. 1592

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1592, a bill to reauthorize the Underground Railroad Educational and Cultural Program.

S. 1606

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor 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. 1649

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 1658

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 1661

At the request of Mr. STEVENS, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. CON. RES. 31

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 31, a concurrent resolution expressing support for advancing vital United States interests through increased engagement in health programs that alleviate disease and reduce

premature death in developing nations, especially through programs that combat high levels of infectious disease improve children's and women's health, decrease malnutrition, reduce unintended pregnancies, fight the spread of HIV/AIDS, encourage healthy behaviors, and strengthen health care capacity.

S. RES. 242

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 242, a resolution celebrating the accomplishments of title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, also known as the Patsy Takemoto Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act, and recognizing the need to continue pursuing the goal of educational opportunities for women and girls.

AMENDMENT NO. 1561

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1561 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. 1627

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1627 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. 1694

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1694 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. 1695

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1695 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. 1704

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1704 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. 1731

At the request of Mr. SUNUNU, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1731 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. 1733

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1733 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. 1771

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1771 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. 1792

At the request of Mr. STEVENS, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL), the Senator from Idaho

(Mr. CRAIG) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1792 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.

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1792 proposed to H.R. 6, *supra*.

AMENDMENT NO. 1793

At the request of Mr. STEVENS, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1793 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. 1794

At the request of Mr. STEVENS, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1794 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. 1795

At the request of Mr. STEVENS, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1795 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. 1799

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

amendment No. 1799 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.

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1799 proposed to H.R. 6, *supra*.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, today I am proud to introduce legislation with Senator MIKE CRAPO, House Ways and Means Chairman CHARLIE RANGEL, and Congresswoman JO ANN EMERSON to help open a promising market to American exports. That market is Cuba.

For too long, we have maintained ideologically driven restrictions that have undermined our export competitiveness in a market 90 miles away from us.

Just beyond our shoreline, our trading partners—especially Canada and China—are making multi billion-dollar investments in a Cuban economy that is growing at a rate of 7 to 12 percent per year. But the United States just stands by while these and other countries capitalize on opportunities in our own backyard.

Our economic policy toward Cuba simply is not working. This bill changes that.

The greatest opportunities exist in Cuba's agriculture sector. When Congress passed legislation allowing food and medicine sales to Cuba in 2000, some people said Cuba would never buy. Fidel Castro himself predicted that Cuba would buy "not one grain" from the United States.

But Mr. Castro was wrong. Agricultural sales happened. In 2004 alone, Cubans bought more than \$375 million in American agricultural products. And, today, nearly every state in the union wants to get into the largest agriculture market in the Caribbean.

I have worked tirelessly to market Montana's high quality agriculture

products, and it has paid off. In 2003, I inked a \$10 million deal with Cuba. After we completed that deal, I went back to Havana and signed another deal—for \$15 million. We have sent Montana wheat, beans and peas to Cuba, and that is just the beginning.

But it has not been easy. In 2005, the Treasury Department issued a rule to undermine the will of Congress. In landmark legislation, Congress in 2000 facilitated agriculture exports to Cuba by authorizing the use of cash basis sales. But the Treasury rule made such transactions impossible. Instead, sellers had to resort to foreign letters of credit, which are time-consuming, complicated, and expensive, especially for smaller exporters.

The Treasury rule stunted what had been meteoric growth in American agriculture exports to Cuba. This rule flies in the face of the law, and it will not stand.

Today's bill overturns the Treasury rule. It clarifies that not only do we intend to let these cash basis sales go forward, we mean to expand and promote them. This bill also ensures that exporters and commodity groups looking to get into the Cuban market get help from the Department of Agriculture. And it would require our Agriculture Department to promote American agricultural exports for Cuba.

Increased agriculture sales will allow Cubans to become familiar with more and more American branded food products. But a little-known provision of U.S. law—known as section 211—invites Cuba to withhold trademark protection from these and other American food exports. Today's bill also addresses that problem.

Section 211 bars U.S. courts from hearing claims of foreign nationals to trademarks similar to or associated with expropriated properties. It also forbids the United States from allowing foreign nationals to register or renew such trademark rights. In other words, it denies trademark protection to Cuban assets. If we are not going to recognize Cuban brands, why should Cuba, in the future, recognize American brands?

The World Trade Organization has already struck down section 211 as inconsistent with U.S. international trade obligations. It is time for this Congress to do the same. My bill repeals this wrong-headed and WTO-inconsistent provision. It ensures the continued security of thousands of American-owned trademarks already registered in Cuba.

I am a big proponent of getting American food products into Cuba. But I also fundamentally believe that we should never use food and medicine as a weapon against a people, no matter what we think of their government.

Many of my colleagues agree with me on this. This is why Congress, in the 1992 Cuban Democracy Act, authorized medicine and medical supplies sales to Cuba. But, at that time, we didn't get it quite right. We passed a law with good intent but loaded it up with so

many restrictions that we have made medical sales to Cuba more difficult than medical sales to Iran or North Korea.

My bill will correct this lopsided and inhumane policy. It will allow Cubans access to our medicines and medical products—which are the best money can buy—on the same terms that we offer to other regimes. There is no sound reason to deny our products to our Cuban neighbors but allow such sales to Iran and North Korea.

I have taken Montana farmers and ranchers to Cuba to explore export opportunities. But such opportunities are rare because our government, with limited exceptions, does not permit travel to Cuba. And those exceptions are so riddled with red tape as to discourage applicants from making use of them.

Many Americans are ready and willing to travel to Cuba, and not just to make agriculture sales. Religious organizations have deep roots on the island—since before the Castro government. They are a lifeline, bringing hope, help, and brotherhood to their counterparts in Cuba. American academics and professionals engage in thoughtful exchanges of research and ideas. American students visit with Cuban students, and they learn lessons a teacher cannot imbue.

Nearly everyone in Cuba has a dear friend or relative living in the United States. Tens of thousands of Cubans who found their way to America save their hard earned dollars on frequent trips home, their bags packed with medicine, vitamins, and clothing.

Rather than encourage these meaningful contacts between Cubans and Americans, our government stifles our interaction. Rather than unite the Cuban family, our government seeks to divide it further.

Americans do not benefit from this policy. The Cuban people do not benefit from this policy. Only those who seek to keep Americans and Cubans apart benefit from our misguided policy of isolation.

It is time to reach out to the Cuban people. It is time to restore Americans' fundamental right to travel anywhere they want. It is time to lift the travel ban.

I am proud of our bill. It spells out the right policy during this fundamental transition in Cuba. It helps farmers and ranchers in Montana and elsewhere seek opportunities in a nearby market. And it affords our citizens the opportunity to spread American generosity, assistance, and values to Cuba.

I look forward to working with Senator CRAPO, Chairman RANGEL, Congresswoman EMERSON, and others to put our trade relationship with Cuba on the right path.

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