

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

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

S. Res. 258. A resolution recognizing the historical and educational significance of the Atlantic Freedom Tour of the Freedom Schooner Amistad, and expressing the sense of the Senate that preserving the legacy of the Amistad story is important in promoting multicultural dialogue, education, and cooperation; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. SMITH):

S. Res. 259. A resolution commending the Oregon State University baseball team for winning the 2007 College World Series; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 22

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 22, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a program of educational assistance for members of the Armed Forces who serve in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001, and for other purposes.

S. 39

At the request of Mr. STEVENS, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) were added as cosponsors of S. 39, a bill to establish a coordinated national ocean exploration program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 163

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 163, a bill to improve the disaster loan program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 185

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 185, a bill to restore habeas corpus for those detained by the United States.

S. 234

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 234, a bill to require the FCC to issue a final order regarding television white spaces.

S. 399

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 399, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to include podiatrists as physicians for purposes of covering physicians services under the Medicaid program.

S. 432

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 432, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage for kidney disease education services under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 543

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) 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.

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 543, supra.

S. 582

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) 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. 691

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) 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. 713

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 713, a bill to ensure dignity in care for members of the Armed Forces recovering from injuries.

S. 771

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 771, a bill to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to improve the nutrition and health of schoolchildren by updating the definition of "food of minimal nutritional value" to conform to current nutrition science and to protect the Federal investment in the national school lunch and breakfast programs.

S. 773

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) 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. 793

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 793, a bill to provide for the

expansion and improvement of traumatic brain injury programs.

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 793, supra.

S. 831

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 831, a bill to authorize States and local governments to prohibit the investment of State assets in any company that has a qualifying business relationship with Sudan.

S. 881

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) were added as cosponsors of S. 881, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 912

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 912, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the incentives for the construction and renovation of public schools.

S. 963

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 963, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants to educational organizations to carry out educational programs about the Holocaust.

S. 966

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 966, a bill to enable the Department of State to respond to a critical shortage of passport processing personnel, and for other purposes.

S. 970

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 970, a bill to impose sanctions on Iran and on other countries for assisting Iran in developing a nuclear program, and for other purposes.

S. 979

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 979, a bill to establish a Vote by Mail grant program.

S. 1010

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1010, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage guaranteed lifetime income payments from annuities and similar payments of life insurance proceeds at dates later than death by excluding from income a portion of such payments.

S. 1138

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1138, a bill to enhance nuclear safeguards and to provide assurances of nuclear fuel supply to countries that forgo certain fuel cycle activities.

S. 1154

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

S. 1204

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1204, a bill to enhance Federal efforts focused on public awareness and education about the risks and dangers associated with Shaken Baby Syndrome.

S. 1246

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1246, a bill to establish and maintain a wildlife global animal information network for surveillance internationally to combat the growing threat of emerging diseases that involve wild animals, such as bird flu, and for other purposes.

S. 1257

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1257, a bill to provide the District of Columbia a voting seat and the State of Utah an additional seat in the House of Representatives.

S. 1322

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1322, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the operation of employee stock ownership plans, and for other purposes.

S. 1338

At the request of Mr. VITTER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1338, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a two-year moratorium on certain Medicare physician payment reductions for imaging services.

S. 1353

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1353, a bill to nullify the determinations of the Copyright Royalty Judges with respect to webcasting, to modify the basis for making such a determination, and for other purposes.

S. 1372

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1372, a bill to provide for a Center for Nanotechnology Research and Engineering.

S. 1373

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Louisiana

(Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1373, a bill to provide grants and loan guarantees for the development and construction of science parks to promote the clustering of innovation through high technology activities.

S. 1394

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1394, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, to exclude from gross income of individual taxpayers discharges of indebtedness attributable to certain forgiven residential mortgage obligations.

S. 1395

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1395, a bill to prevent unfair practices in credit card accounts, and for other purposes.

S. 1406

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) 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. 1416

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1416, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the deduction for mortgage insurance premiums.

S. 1481

At the request of Mr. VITTER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1481, a bill to restore fairness and reliability to the medical justice system and promote patient safety by fostering alternatives to current medical tort litigation, and for other purposes.

S. 1487

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1487, a bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require an individual, durable, voter-verified paper record under title III of such Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1500

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

S. 1529

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor 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. 1545

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from New Mexico

(Mr. DOMENICI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1545, a bill to implement the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group.

S. 1553

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1553, a bill to provide additional assistance to combat HIV/AIDS among young people, and for other purposes.

S. 1565

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1565, a bill to provide for the transfer of naval vessels to certain foreign recipients.

S. 1588

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, his name 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. 1603

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) 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. 1650

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1650, a bill to establish a digital and wireless network technology program, and for other purposes.

S. 1668

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1668, a bill to assist in providing affordable housing to those affected by the 2005 hurricanes.

S. 1695

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1695, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a pathway for the licensure of biosimilar biological products, to promote innovation in the life sciences, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 82

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 82, a resolution designating August 16, 2007 as "National Airborne Day".

S. RES. 231

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi

(Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor 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. 253

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 253, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the establishment of a Museum of the History of American Diplomacy through private donations is a worthy endeavor.

AMENDMENT NO. 1930

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1930 intended to be proposed to S. 1639, a bill to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 1702. A bill to promote employment of individuals with severe disabilities through Federal Government contracting and procurement processes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, today I rise for the purpose of introducing important legislation for the moral and fiscal posture of our great Nation: the Employer Work Incentive Act for Individuals with Severe Disabilities of 2007.

While there are obvious differences of opinion on the state of the U.S. economy, the U.S. workforce is experiencing relatively low unemployment rates. The average hourly wage and payroll employment levels are at an all-time high. As our economy has experienced a slow and steady rise, there is one sector of the population who has been left behind.

The unemployment rate for the severely disabled is higher than it has ever been. Despite previous efforts to increase employment opportunities for this population, the rate of unemployment has risen to 70 percent, that means increasing the amount of citizens relying on Social Security disability insurance.

In 1982, the amount of payments distributed through Social Security disability insurance was \$15.8 billion. In 2004, that number climbed to \$80.6 billion. According to a forecast by the Social Security trustees, the old age and survivors insurance trust fund will last until 2044, while the disability trust fund will be exhausted in 2029.

The Americans with Disabilities Act was enacted in 1990 as a means of lev-

eling the playing field for citizens with disabilities. And while it has provided necessary reforms in employment practices, this legislation has had little to no effect on the rate of unemployment experienced by individuals with severe disabilities.

Even government-run programs such as the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act or Randolph Shepard Act, have done little to improve this high unemployment rate. As our brave men and women serving in uniform in Iraq and Afghanistan return, this problem will be compounded. Many of our troops have been disabled in the cause of protecting this country, and it is incumbent upon us to ensure that there are opportunities for them in the workforce so that they can regain a semblance of their lives back.

It is time for a change in the way we think about employing individuals with severe disabilities. The goal should be to create job opportunities for the severely disabled in the national workforce, not just in government operated programs.

The Employer Work Incentive Act for Individuals with Severe Disabilities, a bipartisan bill authored by Senator KENNEDY and myself, creates these opportunities while reducing dependence on Social Security disability insurance. This legislation gives government contract procurement advantages to those companies who employ significant percentages of individuals with disabilities in their workforce.

Our goal is to employ at least 1 percent of individuals with severe disabilities, or 94,000 people. In doing this, we have the opportunity to save approximately \$45 billion in Social Security disability insurance over the next 10 years.

I know firsthand how important individuals with severe disabilities are to our workforce. In my home State of Kansas, persons like my good friend, Pat Terick, play an important role in local business. His agency, the Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation of Kansas, has long advocated the importance of creating job opportunities for the severely disabled. This advocacy group, located in Wichita, is dedicated to showing companies the advantages of hiring individuals with disabilities. Our bill will be a powerful incentive for businesses to enhance their workforce.

I would like to thank Senator KENNEDY for his leadership in helping to craft this bipartisan legislation. Special thanks to my longtime friend and to a great Kansan and American, Senator Bob Dole, cochair of the One Percent Coalition. With Bob's remarkable devotion to disability advocacy, it comes as no surprise that he is leading the effort to increase job opportunities for those individuals with severe disabilities.

It is time for a change in the way we think about employing individuals with severe disabilities. We must create job opportunities for the severely disabled in the national workforce, not just in government-operated programs.

With the support of my colleagues, this legislation will do just that.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, today we take one more giant step to open the workplace doors wider for people with disabilities. The joining of businesses, consumers, and the Congress is powerful—and we will pass this bill. I thank Senator ROBERTS for his vision and leadership on this legislation.

In the winter of 1999, President Clinton signed the last bill of the millennium into law at the FDR Memorial—it was the "Ticket to Work" Act.

Hundreds of disabled people managed through the snow to get to the memorial that day, in hopes of finally being of part of our Nation's great economy.

That law has made a big difference in giving disabled workers access to health care by allowing them to work and buy Medicaid—but securing actual employment has been a much harder challenge.

Many of the nation's "return to work" programs are outdated and do not engage employers to hire disabled workers to the fullest extent possible.

This legislation will expand opportunities for disabled workers and reward employers who are willing to do the right thing: by paying disabled workers a decent salary; by providing and contributing to the cost of their health care insurance; and by placing workers in an environment where they can work alongside their non-disabled friends and neighbors.

ADA has led to enormous societal change. It has fundamentally altered how our society views disability, and that change will be its most lasting and significant contribution.

But the ADA was also intended to address the very real barriers to people with disabilities looking for a job, a house, an education, and even a bus ride—and we still have a lot of work to do to meet that promise.

This legislation is one positive step forward as we continue to fight for more opportunities for disabled people to go to work and contribute to their communities.

By Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. OBAMA):

S. 1709. A bill to amend the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act of 1998 to provide additional staff and oversight of funds to carry out the Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce, with my good friend and colleague from Pennsylvania, Senator SPECTER, the Underground Railroad Network Reauthorization Act of 2007. The original act, signed into law in 1998, has increased public awareness of the Underground Railroad, a cornerstone in African-American heritage and history, with sites and programs in 28 States and the