

of the 35-mile drive requirement for designations of critical access hospitals; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BIDEN (for himself and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 1738. A bill to establish a Special Counsel for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction within the Office of the Deputy Attorney General, to improve the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, to increase resources for regional computer forensic labs, and to make other improvements to increase the ability law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute predators; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 1739. A bill to amend section 35 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the health coverage tax credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CONRAD (for himself and Mr. DORGAN):

S. 1740. A bill to amend the Act of February 22, 1889, and the Act of July 2, 1862, to provide for the management of public land trust funds in the State of North Dakota; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BAYH (for himself and Mr. ALLARD):

S. 1741. A bill to modernize the manufactured housing loan insurance program under title I of the National Housing Act; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. THUNE:

S. 1742. A bill to prevent the Federal Communications Commission from repromulgating the fairness doctrine; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. KOHL, Mr. SPECTER, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 1743. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the dollar limitation on contributions to funeral trusts; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 1744. A bill to prohibit the application of certain restrictive eligibility requirements to foreign nongovernmental organizations with respect to the provision of assistance under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. DEMINT:

S. Res. 260. A resolution strengthening the point of order against matters out of scope in conference reports; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. COLEMAN (for himself, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. FEINGOLD, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. Res. 261. A resolution expressing appreciation for the profound public service and educational contributions of Donald Jeffrey Herbert, fondly known as "Mr. Wizard"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 38

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) 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. 216

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 216, a bill to provide for the exchange of certain Federal land in the Santa Fe National Forest and certain non-Federal land in the Pecos National Historical Park in the State of New Mexico.

S. 218

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 218, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the income threshold used to calculate the refundable portion of the child tax credit.

S. 367

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 367, a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to prohibit the import, export, and sale of goods made with sweatshop labor, and for other purposes.

S. 651

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) 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. 661

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 661, a bill to establish kinship navigator programs, to establish guardianship assistance payments for children, and for other purposes.

S. 691

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) 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. 725

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 725, a bill to amend the Non-indigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 to reauthorize and improve that Act.

S. 866

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 866, a bill to provide for increased planning and funding for health promotion programs of the Department of Health and Human Services.

S. 881

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr.

BENNETT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 881, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 911

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) were added as cosponsors 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. 968

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

S. 970

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor 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. 1026

At the request of Mr. CHAMBLISS, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) 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. 1060

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1060, a bill to reauthorize the grant program for reentry of offenders into the community in the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, to improve reentry planning and implementation, and for other purposes.

S. 1107

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1107, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to reduce cost-sharing under part D of such title for certain non-institutionalized full-benefit dual eligible individuals.

S. 1146

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WEBB) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors

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. 1147

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1147, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to terminate the administrative freeze on the enrollment into the health care system of the Department of Veterans Affairs of veterans in the lowest priority category for enrollment (referred to as "Priority 8").

S. 1219

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1219, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide taxpayer protection and assistance, and for other purposes.

S. 1233

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1233, a bill to provide and enhance intervention, rehabilitative treatment, and services to veterans with traumatic brain injury, and for other purposes.

S. 1353

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) 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. 1356

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

S. 1382

At the request of Mr. REID, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT) 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. 1398

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1398, a bill to expand the research and prevention activities of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with respect to inflammatory bowel disease.

S. 1545

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) 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 Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) 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. 1603

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) 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. 1607

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1607, a bill to provide for identification of misaligned currency, require action to correct the misalignment, and for other purposes.

S. 1624

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1624, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that the exception from the treatment of publicly traded partnerships as corporations for partnerships with passive-type income shall not apply to partnerships directly or indirectly deriving income from providing investment adviser and related asset management services.

S. 1661

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) were added as cosponsors 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. 1711

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1711, a bill to target cocaine kingpins and address sentencing disparity between crack and powder cocaine.

S. 1713

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1713, a bill to provide for the issuance of a commemorative postage stamp in honor of Rosa Parks.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. MCCASKILL:

S. 1723. A bill to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to enhance the independence of the Inspectors Gen-

eral, to create a Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, I rise to talk about something great Congress did 30 years ago. They passed the Inspector General Act. That act has provided a layer of accountability in our Government that is very important. Unfortunately, there are still times that the inspector generals in our Government are not given the respect and deference they deserve. That is why today I am introducing the Improving Government Accountability Act.

If one thinks about the inspector generals, what they are is a first line of defense on behalf of taxpayers and against Government waste and inefficiency. They are the first line of defense because they are inside Federal agencies. Let's be honest, inspector generals inside Federal agencies are facing mountains of waste and inefficiency. If they are to do their jobs the way Congress intended, they must be independent, and their work must be immediately accessible to the public.

We have had some troubling incidents over the last several years as it relates to the independence, the qualifications and, frankly, the integrity of our inspector generals. That is why this legislation is necessary. That is why this legislation is so important.

The legislation will do several things. First, all inspector generals will be appointed for terms of 7 years. That will make sure they cannot arbitrarily be removed from their position by a department head who is getting nervous about information they are providing to the public in terms of accountability.

Second, Congress must be notified of the removal of any inspector general and, very importantly, the reasons for the removal before they can be removed from office.

Third, all inspector generals will have their own legal counsel to avoid using the agency counsel. This is important because if they are going to have independence, they must have independent legal advice about their ability to do their job.

Fourth, no inspector general can accept a bonus. The bonuses are given by the heads of the agencies. That is an inherent conflict. If you know that you please the head of your agency and you get more money, what kind of short-cuts are you going to take? What are you going to be willing to gloss over in order not to embarrass the head of that agency with information you have discovered about waste and inefficiency?

Fifth, in the event of a vacancy, the Council on Integrity and Efficiency will recommend to the appointing authority three possible replacements. They will not have the ability to dictate the replacement for the IG, but it will provide the appointing authority with three qualified people to take