

the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 1980. An act to authorize appropriations for the Housing Assistance Council; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 1982. An act to authorize appropriations for the rural housing and economic development program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 2293. An act to require the Secretary of State to submit to Congress a report on efforts to bring to justice the Palestinian terrorists who killed John Branchizio, Mark Parson, and John Marin Linde; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 2547. An act to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to prevent misrepresentation about deposit insurance coverage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 2570. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 301 Boardwalk Drive in Fort Collins, Colorado, as the "Dr. Karl E. Carson Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

The following concurrent resolution was read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 87. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of a world day of remembrance for road crash victims; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 799. An act to reauthorize and improve the program authorized by the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, July 17, 2007, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 1701. An act to provide for the extension of transitional medical assistance (TMA) and the abstinence education program through the end of fiscal year 2007, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2580. A communication from the Regulatory Analyst, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "United States Standards for Sorghum" (RIN0580-AA91) received on July 16, 2007; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2581. A communication from the Regulatory Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Management Official Interlocks" (RIN1557-AD01) received on July 16, 2007; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2582. A communication from the Director, Office of Management, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to acquisitions made by the Department with entities that manufacture the articles, materials or supplies outside of the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2583. A communication from the Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removing the Bald Eagle in the Lower 48 States from the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife" (RIN1018-AF21) received on July 16, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2584. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for the Peck's Cave Amphipod, Comal Springs Dryptid Beetle, and Coma; Springs Riffle Beetle" (RIN1018-AU75) received on July 16, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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. CLINTON (for herself, Mr. OBAMA, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 1793. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax credit for property owners who remove lead-based paint hazards; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BAYH:

S. 1794. A bill to amend the Federal Direct Loan Program to provide that interest shall not accrue on Federal Direct Loans for active duty service members and their spouses; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 1795. A bill to improve access to workers' compensation programs for injured Federal employees; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 1796. A bill to provide for the conveyance of the Presque Isle Light Station Fresnel Lens to Presque Isle Township, Michigan; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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

S. 1797. A bill to reduce the risks to Colorado communities and water supplies from severe wildfires, especially in areas affected by insect infestations, to provide model legislation that may be applied to other States experiencing similar insect infestations or other forest-related problems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. CORNYN, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 1798. A bill to establish grant programs to improve the health of border area residents and for all hazards preparedness in the border area including bioterrorism and infectious disease, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. LINCOLN:

S. 1799. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to apply rate parity to the

excise tax on small cigars and small cigarettes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. CLINTON (for herself, Mr. BAYH, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 1800. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to require emergency contraception to be available at all military health care treatment facilities; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. CLINTON:

S. 1801. A bill to require a study on the relocation of the Sector Buffalo facilities of the Coast Guard, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CRAIG:

S. 1802. A bill to adjust the boundaries of the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness in the State of Idaho; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CRAIG:

S. 1803. A bill to authorize the exchange of certain land located in the State of Idaho, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BURR (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 1804. A bill to enhance the ability of the United States to prevent, prepare for, detect, and respond to agriculture and food emergencies; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 1805. A bill to amend the National Housing Act to increase the mortgage amount limits applicable to housing insured by FHA mortgage insurance; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 1806. A bill to restore to the judiciary the power to decide all trademark and trade name cases arising under the laws and treaties of the United States by repealing the prohibition on recognition by United States courts of certain rights relating to certain marks, trade names, and commercial names and impediments to registration of such marks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON:

S. 1807. A bill to establish the Weather Mitigation Advisory and Research Board, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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

S. 1808. A bill to authorize the exchange of certain land in Denali National Park in the State of Alaska; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 14

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 14, a bill to repeal the sunset on certain tax rates and other incentives and to repeal the individual alternative minimum tax, and for other purposes.

S. 59

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 59, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to improve access to advanced practice nurses and physician assistants under the Medicaid Program.

S. 65

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 65, a bill to modify the age-60 standard for certain pilots and for other purposes.

S. 116

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 116, a bill to authorize resources to provide students with opportunities for summer learning through summer learning grants.

S. 206

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 206, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 394

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 394, a bill to amend the Humane Methods of Livestock Slaughter Act of 1958 to ensure the humane slaughter of nonambulatory livestock, and for other purposes.

S. 456

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ) were added as cosponsors 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. 469

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WEBB) was added as a cosponsor of S. 469, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions.

S. 617

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 617, a bill to make the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass available at a discount to certain veterans.

S. 625

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 625, a bill to protect the public health by providing the Food and Drug Administration with certain authority to regulate tobacco products.

S. 746

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the name of the Senator from Maryland

(Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 746, a bill to establish a competitive grant program to build capacity in veterinary medical education and expand the workforce of veterinarians engaged in public health practice and biomedical research.

S. 771

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) 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 Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) 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. 774

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 774, a bill to amend the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to permit States to determine State residency for higher education purposes and to authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain alien students who are long-term United States residents and who entered the United States as children, and for other purposes.

S. 803

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 803, a bill to repeal a provision enacted to end Federal matching of State spending of child support incentive payments.

S. 844

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 844, a bill to provide for the protection of unaccompanied alien children, and for other purposes.

S. 1062

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1062, a bill to establish a congressional commemorative medal for organ donors and their families.

S. 1070

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1070, a bill to amend the Social Security Act to enhance the social security of the Nation by ensuring adequate public-private infrastructure and to re-

solve to prevent, detect, treat, intervene in, and prosecute elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and for other purposes.

S. 1075

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1075, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to expand access to contraceptive services for women and men under the Medicaid program, help low income women and couples prevent unintended pregnancies and reduce abortion, and for other purposes.

S. 1090

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1090, a bill to amend the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 to assist the neediest of senior citizens by modifying the eligibility criteria for supplemental foods provided under the commodity supplemental food program to take into account the extraordinarily high out-of-pocket medical expenses that senior citizens pay, and for other purposes.

S. 1150

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1150, a bill to enhance the State inspection of meat and poultry in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1164

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1164, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve patient access to, and utilization of, the colorectal cancer screening benefit under the Medicare Program.

S. 1183

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) 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. 1230

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1230, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a refundable credit for contributions to qualified tuition programs.

S. 1339

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1339, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, the Higher Education Act of 1965, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve recruitment, preparation, distribution, and retention of public elementary and secondary school teachers and principals, and for other purposes.

S. 1374

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1374, a bill to assist States in making voluntary high quality full-day pre-kindergarten programs available and economically affordable for the families of all children for at least 1 year preceding kindergarten.

S. 1428

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) 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. 1430

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1430, a bill to authorize State and local governments to direct divestiture from, and prevent investment in, companies with investments of \$20,000,000 or more in Iran's energy sector, and for other purposes.

S. 1457

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) 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. 1463

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1463, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to regulate the sale of ammonium nitrate to prevent and deter the acquisition of ammonium nitrate by terrorists, and for other purposes.

S. 1484

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1484, a bill to amend part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to restore the Medicare treatment of ownership of oxygen equipment to that in effect before enactment of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005.

S. 1492

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1492, a bill to improve the quality of federal and state data regarding the availability and quality of broadband services and to promote the deployment of affordable broadband services to all parts of the Nation.

S. 1514

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1514, a bill to revise and extend provisions under the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act.

S. 1577

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms.

COLLINS) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1577, a bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to require screening, including national criminal history background checks, of direct patient access employees of skilled nursing facilities, nursing facilities, and other long-term care facilities and providers, and to provide for nationwide expansion of the pilot program for national and State background checks on direct patient access employees of long-term care facilities or providers.

S. 1593

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor 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. 1607

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) 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. 1668

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

S. 1731

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1731, a bill to provide for the continuing review of unauthorized Federal programs and agencies and to establish a bipartisan commission for the purposes of improving oversight and eliminating wasteful Government spending.

S. 1742

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1742, a bill to prevent the Federal Communications Commission from repromulgating the fairness doctrine.

S. 1776

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1776, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to establish a user fee program to ensure food safety, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 118

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 118, a resolution urging the Government of Canada to end the commercial seal hunt.

AMENDMENT NO. 2000

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2000 in-

tended to be proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2022

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2022 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2022 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1585, *supra*.

AMENDMENT NO. 2067

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2067 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2086

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2086 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2087

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2087 proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2110

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor

of amendment No. 2110 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2121

At the request of Mrs. McCASKILL, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2121 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2122

At the request of Mrs. McCASKILL, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2122 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2163

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2163 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2209

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2209 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2234

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2234 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. CLINTON (for herself, Mr. OBAMA, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 1793. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax credit for property owners who remove lead-based paint hazards; to the Committee on Finance.

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, lead poisoning is a serious, persistent, and entirely preventable threat to a child's health. Childhood lead poisoning has been linked to impaired growth and function of vital organs and problems with intellectual and behavioral development. At very high levels, lead poisoning can cause seizures, comas, and even death; robbing a child of his or her future.

Lead poisoning is the number one environmental health threat to children of color and low-income children in the U.S. African-American and Mexican-American children are 5 and 2 times more likely, respectively, to have toxic blood lead levels than white children, while low-income children are 8 times more likely to develop lead poisoning than more affluent children. Compounding the problem is the fact that 77 percent of children eligible for lead screening under Medicaid are not screened for exposure to lead.

An estimated 500,000 American children under the age of 6 have enough lead in their blood to adversely affect their development. The most common source of lead exposure for children today is lead paint in older housing, particularly when it contaminates dust and soil in and around residences. Furthermore, despite a ban on lead paint in 1978, there are still over 24 million housing units in the U.S. that have lead paint hazards, with about 1.2 million units in New York State alone.

The good news is childhood lead poisoning can be dramatically reduced by the abatement or reduction of lead-based hazards found in homes. Today, I am please to reintroduce legislation to provide a tax credit for safely removing lead-based paint hazards from homes and rental units. The Home Lead Safety Tax Credit Act of 2007 offers much needed incentives for property owners to ensure homes are free of environmental dangers that can harm our children and will put America closer to its goal of eliminating lead poisoning in children by the year 2010.

This bill provides home owners and landlords with a 50 percent tax credit for lead abatement cost for up to \$3,000 and up to \$1,000 interim control measures. These interim control measures, including replacement of windows, specialized maintenance, and safe repainting, are a cost-effective means of protecting the largest number of children from harmful lead exposure in the near term.

This legislation targets a tax credit to homes with children younger than 6 years of age, women of childbearing age, low-income residents, and buildings constructed before 1960, as these

include more than 96 percent of all units where lead-based paint is prevalent. Targeting these tax credits has proven to be a successful way of eliminating childhood lead poisoning. For example, a similar tax credit offered by the State of Massachusetts helped reduce the number of new cases of childhood lead poisoning within the State by almost two-thirds in a decade.

I am glad the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services considers eliminating lead poisoning to be a priority, and has established a national goal of ending childhood lead poisoning by 2010: However, current Federal lead abatement programs only have resources sufficient to make approximately 8,800 homes lead-safe each year. At this pace, we will not be able to end childhood lead poisoning by 2010, let alone 2010. The Home Lead Safety Tax Credit Act of 2007 would help homeowners make over 80,000 homes safe from lead each year, nearly 10 times the capacity of current Federal programs.

Every child deserves to grow up in a clean, healthy home environment. I am hopeful my colleagues will join me in supporting this legislation to safeguard homes against environmental hazards that detrimentally affect the health and safety of our children.

Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 1795. A bill to improve access to workers' compensation programs for injured Federal employees; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, when Congress passed the Federal Employees Compensation Act 41 years ago, we made a basic promise to Federal workers that if they get hurt on the job, they will be taken care of. Today, more than 2.5 million Federal workers rely on the act as a safety net in case of injury. These men and women are our Government at work in all its aspects, and they deserve a system that will care for them when they are injured. The legislation which Senator ISAKSON and I are introducing will ensure that this promise is fulfilled for all Federal workers.

Today, many injured Federal workers find the treatment they need and the compensation they deserve are out of reach. According to a Congressional Research Service report last year, one in five Americans lives in areas with a shortage of health care professionals. Citizens in such areas must often travel more than a hundred miles to see a doctor. Seeing a primary care doctor is often impossible or exorbitantly expensive. To get immediate treatment, they often rely on the expertise of nurse practitioners and physician assistants, who are more likely than doctors to practice in such areas.

These health care professionals fill a vital need, as the primary source of medical care for many patients. Their practice is regulated in all 50 States