

Office of the President of the Senate on October 31, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-8673. A communication from the Program Manager of the Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory Affairs, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Home Health Prospective Payment System Rate Update for Calendar Year 2009" (RIN0938-AP20) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 31, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-8674. A communication from the Deputy Director for Operations, Legislative and Regulatory Department, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits" (29 CFR Parts 4022 and 4044) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 31, 2008; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-8675. A communication from the Administrator of the Office of Apprenticeship, Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Apprenticeship Programs, Labor Standards for Registration, Amendment of Regulations" (RIN1205-AB50) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 31, 2008; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-8676. A communication from Director of the Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendments to the Current Good Manufacturing Practice Regulations for Finished Pharmaceuticals" (Docket No. FDA-2007-N-0379) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 31, 2008; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-8677. A communication from Director of the Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendments to the Current Good Manufacturing Practice Regulations for Finished Pharmaceuticals; Final Rule; Correction" (Docket No. FDA-2007-N-0379) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 31, 2008; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-8678. A communication from Director of the Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Distribution of Certain Drug Products by Registered Blood Establishments and Comprehensive Hemophilia Diagnostic Treatment Centers That Qualify as Health Care Entities; Prescription Drug Marketing Act of 1987; Prescription Drug Amendments of 1992; Policies, Requirements and Administrative Procedures" (Docket No. FDA-2005-N-0345) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 31, 2008; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-8679. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Statistical Programs of the United States Government: Fiscal Year 2009"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-8680. A communication from the Acting Director, Strategic Human Resources Policy

Division, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Veterans' Preference" (RIN3206-AL33) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 31, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-8681. A communication from the Acting Director, Strategic Human Resources Policy Division, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Nonforeign Area Cost-of-Living Allowance Rates; Alaska" (RIN3206-AL37) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 31, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-8682. A communication from the Acting Director, Strategic Human Resources Policy Division, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Reemployment Rights" (RIN3206-A119) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 31, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-8683. A communication from the Acting Director, Center for Pay and Leave Administration, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Repayment of Student Loans" (RIN3206-AK51) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 31, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-8684. A communication from the Deputy White House Liaison, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of action on a nomination for the position of Assistant Attorney General, National Security Division, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 31, 2008; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-8685. A communication from the Secretary of the Senate, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the receipts and expenditures of the Senate for the period from April 1, 2008 through September 30, 2008; ordered to lie on the table.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LIEBERMAN, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

Report to accompany S. 1924, a bill to amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to create a presumption that a disability or death of a Federal employee in fire protection activities caused by any of certain diseases is the result of the performance of such employee's duty (Rept. No. 110-520).

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary:

Report to accompany S. 980, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to address online pharmacies (Rept. No. 110-521).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. 3683. A bill to amend the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act to require approval by the Congress for certain expenditures for the Troubled Asset Relief Program; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mr. BOND, Mr. LEVIN, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 3684. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an above-the-line deduction against individual income tax for interest in indebtedness and for State sales and excise taxes with respect to the purchase of certain motor vehicles; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 3685. A bill to prohibit the selling and counterfeiting of tickets for a Presidential inaugural ceremony; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. SPECTER:

S. 3686. A bill to establish an Office of Foreclosure Evaluation to coordinate the responsibilities of the Department of the Treasury, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Federal Housing Administration, the Federal Housing Finance Agency, the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and other Federal Government entities regarding foreclosure prevention, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 3687. A bill to prohibit the admission of an alien who was detained as an enemy combatant at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba unless the President determines that such admission is consistent with the national security of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REID:

S. 3688. A bill to provide for additional emergency unemployment compensation, to amend the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 to authorize loans to automobile manufacturers and component suppliers, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. BYRD):

S. 3689. A bill making supplemental appropriations for job creation and preservation, infrastructure investment, and economic and energy assistance for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 3690. A bill to help struggling families stay in their homes and to ensure that taxpayers are protected when the Secretary of the Treasury purchases equity shares in financial situations; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. Res. 706. A resolution to authorize testimony and legal representation in *Peter Bergel v. Pacific Gas & Electric*; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 407

At the request of Mr. VITTER, his name was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 407, a bill to amend the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 to designate a portion of Interstate Route 14 as a high priority corridor, and for other purposes.

S. 826

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WEBB), the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 826, a bill to posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Alice Paul, in recognition of her role in the women's suffrage movement and in advancing equal rights for women.

S. 988

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 988, a bill to extend the termination date for the exemption of returning workers from the numerical limitations for temporary workers.

S. 1070

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) 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 resolve to prevent, detect, treat, intervene in, and prosecute elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and for other purposes.

S. 1211

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1211, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to provide enhanced penalties for marketing controlled substances to minors.

S. 2092

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2092, a bill to amend title 11, United States Code, to improve protections for employees and retirees in business bankruptcies.

S. 2585

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2585, a bill to provide for the enhancement of the suicide prevention programs of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

S. 2639

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2639, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for an assured adequate level of funding for veterans health care.

S. 2883

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2883, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of Mother's Day.

S. 3073

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from North Caro-

lina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3073, a bill to amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to improve procedures for the collection and delivery of absentee ballots of absent overseas uniformed services voters, and for other purposes.

S. 3229

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3229, a bill to increase the safety of the crew and passengers in air ambulances.

S. 3305

At the request of Mr. CHAMBLISS, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3305, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Army to establish, modify, charge, and collect recreation fees with respect to land and water administered by the Corps of Engineers.

S. 3331

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3331, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that the payment of the manufacturers' excise tax on recreational equipment be paid quarterly.

S. 3403

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3403, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require determination of the maximum feasible fuel economy level achievable for cars and light trucks for a year based on a projected fuel gasoline price that is not less than the applicable high gasoline price projection issued by the Energy Information Administration.

S. 3596

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3596, a bill to stabilize the small business lending market, and for other purposes.

S. 3652

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3652, a bill to provide for financial market investigation, oversight, and reform.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mr. BOND, Mr. LEVIN, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 3684. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an above-the-line deduction against individual income tax for interest in indebtedness and for State sales and excise taxes with respect to the purchase of certain motor vehicles; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, our economy is in shambles. People are los-

ing their jobs, they are losing their life savings, and they are losing their homes. Congress must act and we must act now.

I agree with the Senator from Pennsylvania, Mr. SPECTER, that this session of the Congress and this session of the Senate should not be called a lame-duck. We should neither be lame nor should we duck the big issue facing our country. We have helped out. If you look at what we have done already—well, we have already done a bailout. We helped the sharks and we helped the whales. Now it is time to help the minnows, the little guy and gal, the American consumer.

I have that solution. Today, I introduce legislation, cosponsored by my colleague from Missouri, to save jobs in the American automobile industry, to help consumers, and get our economy back on track. It is simple, it is straightforward, and it is bipartisan. It is also timely and temporary.

My bill would save jobs. What is it that I want to do? I want to stimulate demand in the automobile industry so people actually come into showrooms and buy cars, minivans, or light trucks. Why is this a good idea? Actually, if you buy a car, someone has to make it, someone has to sell it, someone has to service it, and someone has to provide administrative services. This is good for manufacturers, the dealers, and the suppliers. It could save considerable jobs in the auto industry.

My bill is not about bailouts. It is about jobs, jobs, jobs. Six million jobs are at stake in the American car industry. One out of ten jobs in America relies on the auto industry. Right now, the facts are gloomy. Sales are down. The auto industry has already cut over 100,000 jobs. The 30,000 American dealerships in this country are at risk of losing 37,000 jobs. We cannot let this happen. We cannot let the American automobile industry implode.

I believe we can help by getting the consumers into the showroom, have them feel that Government is on their side in helping them with one of the biggest purchases during this tough time.

What does this amendment do? My bill is simple. If you buy a passenger car, minivan, or light truck between November 12 of this year and December 31 of 2009, you will get a tax deduction for your sales or excise tax and the interest on your loan. Families can save anywhere from \$2,000 to \$5,000 by the Mikulski-Bond bill.

This is a big deal because, next to the purchase of your home, the purchase of your automobile is your next big ticket.

It is targeted. I cap it at families with an income of over \$250,000 a year. It focuses on the middle-income and the middle-class family cars. It is also timely because we need to know that the biggest 6-week period for automobile sales is between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve. They sell other cars during 6-week periods, but between Thanksgiving and New Year's