

(LMSB-04-1207-077) received on February 26, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5271. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2008 Economic Stimulus Payments: Filing Instructions for Certain Individuals" (Notice 2008-28) received on February 26, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5272. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2008 Census Count" (Notice 2008-22) received on February 26, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5273. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Performance-Based Compensation Under Internal Revenue Code Section 162(m)" (Rev. Rul. 2008-13) received on February 26, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5274. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Rule for Bank Required to Change from the Reserve Method of Accounting on Becoming an S Corporation" (Rev. Proc. 2008-18) received on February 26, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5275. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Vacation Homes and Section 1031" (Rev. Proc. 2008-16) received on February 25, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5276. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Substitute for Return" (TD 9380) received on February 25, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5277. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Reissuance Standards for State and Local Bonds" (Notice 2008-27) received on February 26, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5278. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement for the export of technical data in support of the Integrated Surveillance System for the A400M Military Transport Aircraft; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5279. A communication from the Director of National Intelligence, transmitting, a report relative to the Administration's opposition to S. 274; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5280. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5281. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Administration's use of the category rating system; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5282. A communication from the Director of Human Resources, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the category rating system; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5283. A communication from the Chairman, Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Attracting the Next Generation: A Look at Federal Entry-Level New Hires"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5284. A communication from the Director, Division for Strategic Human Resources Policy, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Allotments From Federal Employees" (RIN3206-AJ88) received on February 26, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5285. A communication from the Director, Strategic Human Resources Policy Division, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Career and Career-Conditional Employment and Adverse Actions" (RIN3206-AL30) received on February 26, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5286. A communication from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Annual Report for calendar year 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5287. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Bureau of Prisons' compliance with the privatization requirements of the Revitalization Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5288. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report on the Department's activities during calendar year 2006 relative to prison rape abatement; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5289. A communication from the Chairman, Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a new Strategic Plan that was adopted by the Commission; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## 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. JOHNSON (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 2670. A bill to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to ensure adequate funding for conservation and restoration of wildlife, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. MURRAY:

S. 2671. A bill to provide grants to promote financial literacy; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 2672. A bill to provide incentives to physicians to practice in rural and medically underserved communities; 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. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. TESTER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. Res. 462. A resolution designating the first week of April 2008 as "National Asbestos Awareness Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 644

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 644, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to recodify as part of that title certain educational assistance programs for members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces, to improve such programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1223

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) were added as cosponsors of S. 1223, a bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to support efforts by local or regional television or radio broadcasters to provide essential public information programming in the event of a major disaster, and for other purposes.

S. 1382

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1382, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment of an Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Registry.

S. 1395

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

S. 1854

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1854, a bill to amend the Social Security Act and the Public Health Service Act to improve elderly suicide early intervention and prevention strategies, and for other purposes.

S. 2004

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2004, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish epilepsy centers of excellence in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2170

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Louisiana

(Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2170, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the treatment of qualified restaurant property as 15-year property for purposes of the depreciation deduction.

S. 2337

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2337, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow long-term care insurance to be offered under cafeteria plans and flexible spending arrangements and to provide additional consumer protections for long-term care insurance.

S. 2366

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2366, a bill to provide immigration reform by securing America's borders, clarifying and enforcing existing laws, and enabling a practical verification program.

S. 2369

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2369, a bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide that certain tax planning inventions are not patentable, and for other purposes.

S. 2401

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2401, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refund of motor fuel excise taxes for the actual off-highway use of certain mobile machinery vehicles.

S. 2433

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2433, a bill to require the President to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to further the United States foreign policy objective of promoting the reduction of global poverty, the elimination of extreme global poverty, and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal of reducing by one-half the proportion of people worldwide, between 1990 and 2015, who live on less than \$1 per day.

S. 2505

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2505, a bill to allow employees of a commercial passenger airline carrier who receive payments in a bankruptcy proceeding to roll over such payments into an individual retirement plan, and for other purposes.

S. 2580

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2580, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve the participation in higher education of, and to increase opportunities

in employment for, residents of rural areas.

S. 2623

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2623, a bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to authorize travel and transportation allowances for mobilized members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces on leave for suspension of training or to meet minimal staffing requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 2625

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2625, a bill to ensure that deferred Department of Veterans Affairs disability benefits that are received in a lump sum amount or in prospective monthly amounts, be excluded from consideration as annual income when determining eligibility for low-income housing programs.

S. 2636

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2636, a bill to provide needed housing reform.

S. 2640

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2640, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance and improve insurance, housing, labor and education, and other benefits for veterans, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 26

At the request of Mrs. DOLE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 26, a joint resolution supporting a base Defense Budget that at the very minimum matches 4 percent of gross domestic product.

S. RES. 252

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 252, a resolution recognizing the increasingly mutually beneficial relationship between the United States of America and the Republic of Indonesia.

S. RES. 439

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 439, a resolution expressing the strong support of the Senate for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to enter into a Membership Action Plan with Georgia and Ukraine.

S. RES. 455

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 455, a resolution calling for peace in Darfur.

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

S. 2672. A bill to provide incentives to physicians to practice in rural and medically underserved communities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Conrad State 30 Improvement Act to extend and expand this program's success in bringing doctors to communities that would otherwise not have access to health care services.

The Conrad State 30 program, which I helped create in 1994, has brought thousands of physicians to underserved communities in all 50 states, across our great country. These doctors are foreign born, but have all received training in the United States. Under the Conrad 30 program, foreign doctors already in the country for medical training are granted a waiver from a visa requirement to return to their home country for 2 years. In exchange for this waiver, the doctors must commit to providing health care to underserved populations in the United States for 3 years.

By 2020, some projections show that the United States may have 200,000 fewer doctors than it needs; that is a staggering statistic, and one that cannot be taken lightly. If this shortfall is allowed to materialize, rural areas, like my State of North Dakota, will undoubtedly be among the hardest hit.

Given the looming deficit of doctors and an increasingly competitive global marketplace, it is vital that we maintain the incentives for qualified foreign physicians to serve patients in this country. The immigration benefits historically provided by the Conrad program, and enhanced in this bill, provide crucial incentives to foreign doctors. And when they do come to our country, it is vital that we make sure that they end up in the places that need them most.

This bill makes the Conrad 30 program permanent, something that I believe is long overdue. It also invites a new group of foreign doctors to take part in the program, a change that could dramatically expand the pool of doctors practicing in rural and underserved areas. Further, the bill creates a mechanism by which the current cap of 30 doctors per state can significantly expand, while protecting the interests of those states that have had difficulty recruiting doctors under the program. The bill also creates an important new incentive for doctors to participate in the program by granting them a green card cap exemption when they have completed their service. Finally, the bill gives increased flexibility to State health authorities to determine the needs of their State in utilizing Conrad waivers.

I strongly believe the Conrad State 30 Improvement Act can be of great benefit to every state in the country and help combat the growing shortage of