

Karen, together with other members of my staff, successfully negotiated with House and Senate committee, floor, and leadership staff with respect to controversial provisions in the Military Reservist and Veteran Small Business Reauthorization and Opportunity Act of 2007, H.R. 4253, critical legislation that will expand business opportunities for veterans and help reservists keep their businesses afloat during and after deployment. Karen was instrumental in helping the Senate to clear this bill by unanimous consent in late January before President Bush signed it into law in mid-February. Karen was also pivotal in helping to include a bipartisan and bicameral small business title to the energy bill that was signed into law last December. In addition, Karen also helped the Disaster Response and Loan Improvement Act, S. 163, to pass the Senate last August. It was her political savvy and innovative thinking that helped produce a less costly bill that met both the Senate's and the administration's objectives and was able to garner the support of the entire Senate Chamber.

Finally, I would also be remiss in not pointing out that there are often concerns when an executive branch employee comes to the Senate for a work assignment, as Congress and the administration sometimes approach issues from differing viewpoints. Karen carefully and gracefully fulfilled her fiduciary duties relating to confidential information received from the two branches of Government, which could not be shared between those entities. She was also able to give fair and balanced advice, explaining in an unbiased manner both sides of an issue. In addition to Karen's in-depth knowledge of the SBA, she also provided broader insight into executive branch operations, including the Federal rulemaking and administrative processes, as well as the Office of Management and Budget's role in the budget and appropriations process.

Karen has truly been a vital part of my team and has provided a unique viewpoint and voice that has truly broadened this committee's grasp on the SBA and small business issues. Karen's extraordinary performance has far exceeded my expectations, and she will be greatly missed. I wish Karen and her husband Stephen all the best as she returns to the SBA.●

RECOGNIZING THOS. MOSER CABINETMAKERS

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I congratulate Thos. Moser Cabinetmakers, a family-oriented business from my home State of Maine that continues to thrive after 36 years of producing extraordinary furniture. With galleries open in nine locations, including one in South Korea and its newest in Los Angeles, Thos. Moser Cabinetmakers has truly exceeded expectations while staying true to its Maine roots.

Thos. Moser Cabinetmakers' founder, Thomas Moser, began his professional

career as a professor both throughout the United States as well as in Saudi Arabia. Shortly after getting married in 1957, Mr. Moser and his wife began purchasing old furniture, refurbishing it, and then reselling it to supplement their income. Realizing how passionately he enjoyed woodworking, Mr. Moser gave up teaching to pursue the legacy that has now propelled his product into a household name. Working with his sons, Mr. Moser is dedicated to maintaining a family business for years to come and credits his success to his partnership with his wife.

What has always stood out about Thos. Moser is that the company adheres to a creed that stresses function over fashion, creating beautiful works for everyday living. From dining tables and stools to beds, benches, and rocking chairs, Thos. Moser's furniture belies a unique and timeless quality. The company's various collections and pieces have frequently resulted from Mr. Moser's worldwide travels and experiences. The inspiration of Danish furnituremaking provided the impetus for the curved Astral Bench while the Eastward Stool pays tribute to the famed Japanese-American woodworker George Nakashima. Mr. Moser's furniture additionally celebrates places of natural beauty in Maine, from its largest peak, Mount Katahdin, to the island-laden coastal town of Harpswell, to farm-draped New Gloucester, the placid town where Thos. Moser Cabinetmakers got its start. One of the company's most admirable aspects is its warranty. Guaranteed for life, Thos. Moser furniture is ensured to be replaced if it is ever found to be faulty.

To continue constructing such superb furniture, and to stay competitive in the woodworking industry, Thos. Moser recently teamed up with the Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership to incorporate the Lean manufacturing program into its regular business practices. This program helps workers and management alike think in an innovative, goal-oriented manner, and as a result, many employees at Thos. Moser have taken up leadership positions they never would have attempted otherwise. In all, 35 employees were trained through the program, but the benefits were far-reaching.

Thos. Moser Cabinetmakers grew out of a passion for woodwork, and the current operation has sacrificed none of that early fervor. The company is a strong example of Mainers' determined entrepreneurial spirit, and it shows no signs of letting up. I congratulate Thos. Moser Cabinetmakers and its over 200 employees for their steadfast enthusiasm and committed work ethic, and wish them much continued success.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:46 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the

following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5492. An act to authorize the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution to construct a greenhouse facility at its museum support facility in Suitland, Maryland, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 290. Concurrent commemorating the 175th anniversary of the special relationship between the United States and the Kingdom of Thailand.

At 5:27 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 316. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives and a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate.

At 6:28 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 2733. An act to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H. Con. Res. 290. Concurrent resolution commemorating the 175th anniversary of the special relationship between the United States and the Kingdom of Thailand; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, March 12, 2008, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled joint resolution:

S.J. Res. 25. Joint resolution providing for the appointment of John W. McCarter as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. KENNEDY, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

Report to accompany S. 901, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide additional authorizations of appropriations for the health centers program under section 330 of such Act (Rept. No. 110-274).

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 980. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to address online pharmacies.

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. HARKIN (for himself and Mr. CHAMBLISS):

S. 2745. A bill to extend agricultural programs beyond March 15, 2008, to suspend permanent price support authorities beyond that date, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2746. A bill to amend section 552(b)(3) of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Freedom of Information Act) to provide that statutory exemptions to the disclosure requirements of that Act shall specifically cite to the provision of that Act authorizing such exemptions, to ensure an open and deliberative process in Congress by providing for related legislative proposals to explicitly state such required citations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JOHNSON:

S. 2747. A bill to grant a Federal charter to the National American Indian Veterans, Incorporated; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself and Mr. BROWNBAC):

S. 2748. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to publish physical activity guidelines for the general public, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. COBURN (for himself, Mr. BURR, and Mr. KYL):

S. 2749. A bill to ensure that the highest priority for HIV/AIDS-related funding is saving lives most immediately and urgently threatened by HIV/AIDS, including babies at risk of being infected at birth; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2750. A bill to modify the requirements applicable to locatable minerals on public domain lands, consistent with the principles of self-initiation of mining claims, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. SPECTER):

S. 2751. A bill to facilitate foreign investment by permanently reauthorizing the EB-5 regional center program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 2752. A bill to authorize the President to award grants to improve the capacity of nongovernmental organizations and individuals in foreign countries to provide appropriate mental disability and mental trauma care training, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 2753. A bill to protect consumers, and especially young consumers, from skyrocketing credit card debt, unfair credit card practices, and deceptive credit offers; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. ENZI, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S.J. Res. 29. A joint resolution expressing Congressional support for the goals and ideals of National Health Care Decisions Day; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. BROWNBAC, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. WARNER, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. DOLE, and Mr. CHAMBLISS):

S. Res. 480. A resolution recognizing the strategic importance of the African continent and welcoming the establishment of AFRICOM, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 211

At the request of Mr. CHAMBLISS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 211, a bill to facilitate nationwide availability of 2-1-1 telephone service for information and referral on human services, volunteer services, and for other purposes.

S. 356

At the request of Mr. BROWNBAC, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 356, a bill to ensure that women seeking an abortion are fully informed regarding the pain experienced by their unborn child.

S. 367

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) 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. 772

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 772, a bill to amend the Federal antitrust laws to provide expanded coverage and to eliminate exemptions from such laws that are contrary to the public interest with respect to railroads.

S. 881

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) 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. 988

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) 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. 1042

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1042, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to make the provision of technical services for medical imaging examinations and radiation therapy treatments safer, more accurate, and less costly.

S. 1166

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut

(Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1166, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income certain zone compensation of civilian employees of the United States.

S. 1924

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 1951

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1951, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to ensure that individuals eligible for medical assistance under the Medicaid program continue to have access to prescription drugs, and for other purposes.

S. 2002

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2002, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify certain provisions applicable to real estate investment trusts, and for other purposes.

S. 2075

At the request of Mr. BROWNBAC, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2075, a bill to ensure that women seeking an abortion receive an ultrasound and the opportunity to review the ultrasound before giving informed consent to receive an abortion.

S. 2119

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2119, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of veterans who became disabled for life while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

S. 2166

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2166, a bill to provide for greater responsibility in lending and expanded cancellation of debts owed to the United States and the international financial institutions by low-income countries, and for other purposes.

S. 2505

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) 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. 2575

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr.