

S. Res. 499. A resolution urging Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, who is also the head of the Fatah Party, to officially abrogate the 10 articles in the Fatah Constitution that call for Israel's destruction and terrorism against Israel, oppose any political solution, and label Zionism as racism; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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

S. Res. 500. A resolution honoring military children during "National Month of the Military Child"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KYL, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURR, Mr. BYRD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COLEMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DODD, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KERRY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KOHL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SMITH, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WEBB, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 501. A resolution honoring the sacrifice of the members of the United States Armed Forces who have been killed in Iraq and Afghanistan; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. ALLARD:

S. Res. 502. A resolution commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Space Foundation; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DODD, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. VOINOVICH):

S. Res. 503. A resolution recognizing and honoring the 40th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act and the 20th anniversary of the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988; considered and agreed to.

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

S. Con. Res. 73. A concurrent resolution expressing Congressional support for the goals and ideals of National Health Care Decisions Day; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 22

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 22, a bill to amend title 38, United

States Code, to establish a program of educational assistance for members of the Armed Forces who serve in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001, and for other purposes.

S. 45

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 45, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make a technical correction in the definition of outpatient speech-language pathology services.

S. 206

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) 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. 329

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 329, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage for cardiac rehabilitation and pulmonary rehabilitation services.

S. 406

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 406, a bill to ensure local governments have the flexibility needed to enhance decision-making regarding certain mass transit projects.

S. 439

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 439, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation.

S. 459

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 459, a bill to require that health plans provide coverage for a minimum hospital stay for mastectomies, lumpectomies, and lymph node dissection for the treatment of breast cancer and coverage for secondary consultations.

S. 582

At the request of Mr. VITTER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 582, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to classify automatic fire sprinkler systems as 5-year property for purposes of depreciation.

S. 773

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 773, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Fed-

eral civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.

S. 1223

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG) was added as a cosponsor 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. 1243

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1243, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to reduce the age for receipt of military retired pay for non-regular service from 60 years of age to 55 years of age.

S. 1954

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1954, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to pharmacies under part D.

S. 1995

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1995, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the tax on beer to its pre-1991 level.

S. 2029

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2029, a bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to provide for transparency in the relationship between physicians and manufacturers of drugs, devices, or medical supplies for which payment is made under Medicare, Medicaid, or SCHIP.

S. 2042

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2042, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct activities to rapidly advance treatments for spinal muscular atrophy, neuromuscular disease, and other pediatric diseases, and for other purposes.

S. 2240

At the request of Mr. VITTER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2240, a bill to prohibit termination of employment of volunteer firefighters and emergency medical personnel responding to emergencies, and for other purposes.

S. 2384

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2384, a bill to authorize the Chief of Engineers to conduct a feasibility

study relating to the construction of a multipurpose project in the Fountain Creek watershed located in the State of Colorado.

S. 2386

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2386, a bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, to authorize temporary mortgage and rental payments.

S. 2388

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2388, a bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, to increase the maximum amount of assistance to individuals and households.

S. 2485

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2485, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of physical therapists in the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program, and for other purposes.

S. 2521

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2521, a bill to provide benefits to domestic partners of Federal employees.

S. 2602

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2602, a bill to amend the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008, to terminate the authority of the Secretary of the Treasury to deduct amounts from certain States.

S. 2674

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2674, a bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to improve and enhance procedures for the retirement of members of the Armed Forces for disability and to improve and enhance authorities for the rating and compensation of service-connected disabilities in veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 2715

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2715, a bill to amend title 4, United States Code, to declare English as the national language of the Government of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2719

At the request of Mrs. DOLE, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2719, a bill to provide that Execu-

tive Order 13166 shall have no force or effect, and to prohibit the use of funds for certain purposes.

S. 2722

At the request of Mrs. DOLE, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2722, a bill to prohibit aliens who are repeat drunk drivers from obtaining legal status or immigration benefits.

S. 2729

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2729, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modify Medicare physician reimbursement policies to ensure a future physician workforce, and for other purposes.

S. 2731

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2731, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2009 through 2013 to provide assistance to foreign countries to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, and for other purposes.

S. 2736

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2736, a bill to amend section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 to improve the program under such section for supportive housing for the elderly, and for other purposes.

S. 2743

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2743, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the establishment of financial security accounts for the care of family members with disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 2766

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2766, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to address certain discharges incidental to the normal operation of a recreational vessel.

S.J. RES. 29

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 29, a joint resolution expressing Congressional support for the goals and ideals of National Health Care Decisions Day.

S. RES. 470

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Florida

(Mr. NELSON), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 470, a resolution calling on the relevant governments, multilateral bodies, and non-state actors in Chad, the Central African Republic, and Sudan to devote ample political commitment and material resources towards the achievement and implementation of a negotiated resolution to the national and regional conflicts in Chad, the Central African Republic, and Darfur, Sudan.

S. RES. 498

At the request of Mr. DODD, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 498, a resolution designating April 8, 2008, as "National Cushing's Syndrome Awareness Day".

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

S. 2812. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the provision of telehealth services under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I rise with my colleague, Senator STABENOW, to introduce an important piece of legislation for Medicare beneficiaries living in rural areas. The Medicare Telehealth Improvement Act will ensure that rural beneficiaries have access to health care services by connecting remote areas to the services often only available in large urban centers.

Fifteen years ago, I cofounded the Congressional Steering Committee on Telemedicine and Health Care Informatics to bring more attention to this technology and its potential. I took an interest in this technology because in large, rural, medically underserved States like mine, telemedicine provides access to care that is simply unavailable otherwise. In many areas of North Dakota, routine check-ups with a specialist can require a 200 mile round trip journey. That's fine for a young person on a nice spring day. But it doesn't work for seniors in the middle of a North Dakota blizzard.

That's why in 1997, we fought to provide Medicare coverage of telemedicine services. But access to this benefit was strictly limited. For example, the telehealth service must be provided in a health professional shortage area or county not classified as a metropolitan statistical area. In addition, only consultations, office visits, individual psychotherapy and pharmacologic management are covered services. Moreover, reimbursement, which is the same as the current physician fee schedule amount, is limited to physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurse midwives, clinical nurse specialists, clinical psychologists, clinical social workers, and registered dietitians. Finally, only physician offices, hospitals, rural health