

## TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 4576.** Mr. AKAKA (for himself and Mr. BURR) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1315, to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance veterans' insurance and housing benefits, to improve benefits and services for transitioning servicemembers, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 12, beginning on line 8, strike "June 1, 2008" and insert "April 1, 2009".

On page 13, line 17, strike "January 1, 2008" and insert "January 1, 2009".

On page 14, line 9, strike "January 1, 2008" and insert "January 1, 2009".

On page 29, line 7, strike "October 1, 2007" and insert "October 1, 2008".

On page 29, line 12, strike "December 31, 2008" and insert "December 31, 2009".

On page 30, line 19, strike "December 31, 2008" and insert "December 31, 2009".

On page 35, line 22, add after the period the following: "The amendment made by the preceding sentence shall take effect on October 1, 2008, and shall expire on January 1, 2010."

On page 38, beginning on line 21, strike "the date of the enactment of this Act" and insert "April 1, 2009".

On page 41, line 16, strike "May 1, 2008" and insert "April 1, 2009".

On page 41, line 18, strike "May 1, 2008" and insert "April 1, 2009".

On page 41, line 24, strike "the date of the enactment of this Act" and insert "April 1, 2009".

On page 42, line 1, strike "the date of the enactment of this Act" and insert "that date".

On page 59, line 17, strike "October 1, 2007" and insert "October 1, 2008".

On page 62, line 22, strike "October 1, 2007" and insert "October 1, 2008".

On page 67, line 23, strike "October 1, 2007" and insert "October 1, 2008".

On page 71, beginning on line 9, strike "October 1, 2007, and ending on September 30, 2011" and insert "October 1, 2008, and ending on September 30, 2012".

On page 71, line 23, strike "March 31, 2011" and insert "March 31, 2012".

On page 72, line 3, strike "September 30, 2011" and insert "September 30, 2012".

On page 72, line 14, strike "fiscal years 2008 through 2011" and inserting "fiscal years 2009 through 2012".

On page 73, line 4, strike "fiscal year 2011" and insert "fiscal year 2012".

On page 75, beginning on line 22, strike "December 31, 2010" and insert "December 31, 2011".

**SA 4577.** Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Ms. STABENOW) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 334, to provide affordable, guaranteed private health coverage that will make Americans healthier and can never be taken away; which was referred to the Committee on Finance; as follows:

On page 7, line 18, strike the period and insert the following: "or an employer-sponsored health coverage plan described under section 103 offered by an employer."

On page 11, beginning on line 3, strike "offered through the HHA of the adult individual's State of residence".

On page 12, beginning on line 4, strike "offered through the HHA of the adult individual's State of residence".

On page 16, between lines 3 and 4, insert the following:

**SEC. 103. HEALTH COVERAGE PLANS OFFERED BY EMPLOYERS.**

(a) PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A health coverage plan described in section 105(h)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to self-insured plans) that is offered by an employer shall be subject to—

(A) the requirements of subtitle B (except for subsections (a), (d)(2), and (d)(4) of section 111); and

(B) a risk-adjustment mechanism used to spread risk across all health plans.

(2) OTHER PLANS.—A health coverage plan that is not described in section 105(h)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that is offered by an employer shall be subject to the requirements of subtitle B (except for subsection (a) of section 111).

(b) DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION.—Employers that offer an employer-sponsored health coverage plan shall distribute to employees standardized, unbiased information on HAPI plans and supplemental health insurance options provided by the State HHA under section 502(b).

(c) PLANS OFFERED THROUGH EMPLOYERS.—An employer-sponsored health coverage plan shall be offered by an employer and not through the applicable State HHA.

On page 22, on line 13, insert "(including a risk-adjustment mechanism)" after "rating principals".

On page 102, line 19, insert "The preceding sentence shall not apply to any employer who has less than 10 employees." after "when paid".

On page 117, line 9, insert "(except for employer-sponsored health coverage plans described under section 103 offered by employers)" after "HHA".

On page 117, between lines 15 and 16, insert the following:

(4) make risk-adjusted payments to all health insurance issuers and employers offering a HAPI plan in such State to account for the specific population covered by the plan, in accordance with guidelines established by the Secretary;

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 24, 2008, at 9:30 a.m., in closed session to receive a briefing on a sensitive intelligence matter.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 24, 2008, at 10 a.m., to conduct a committee hearing entitled "Turmoil in U.S. Credit Markets: Examining the U.S. Regulatory Framework Assessing Sovereign Investments."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to hold an Executive Session during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April

24, 2008, at 10:30 a.m., in Room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to hold an Executive Session during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 24, 2008, at 2:30 p.m., in Room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 24, 2008, at 10 a.m., in Room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to hear testimony on "Tax Aspects of a Cap-and-Trade System."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 24, 2008, at 9:30 a.m. to hold a hearing on implementing smart power: setting an agenda for national security reform.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 24, 2008, at 2 p.m. to hold a hearing on international debt relief.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 24, 2008, at 4:45 p.m. to hold a briefing on a classified matter.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate, in order to conduct a hearing entitled "Restoring FDA's Ability to Keep America's Families Safe" on Thursday, April 24, 2008. The hearing will commence at 9:30 a.m. in Room 106 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized

to meet on Thursday, April 24, at 9 a.m. in Room 562 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a business meeting on pending issues to be followed immediately by an oversight hearing on "Recommendations for Improving the Federal Acknowledgment Process."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, to conduct an executive business meeting on Thursday, April 24, 2008, at 10 a.m. in Room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 24, 2008, at 2:30 p.m. to hold a closed hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, GOVERNMENT INFORMATION, FEDERAL SERVICES, AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs' Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 24, 2008, at 9:30 a.m. in order to conduct a hearing entitled, "Addressing Iran's Nuclear Ambitions."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT, THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE, AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs' Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 24, 2008, at 2 p.m. in order to conduct a hearing entitled, "Beyond Control: Reforming Export Licensing Agencies for National Security and Economic Interests."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANTITRUST, COMPETITION POLICY AND CONSUMER RIGHTS

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, in order to conduct a hearing entitled "An Examination of the Delta-Northwest Merger" on Thursday, April 24, 2008, at 2 p.m., in Room SD-226

of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. The witness list is not yet available.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Water and Power be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate in order to conduct a hearing on Thursday, April 24, 2008, at 2:15 p.m., in Room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Jeryle Greene and Mindy Van Woerkom of my staff be granted the privilege of the floor for the duration of today's session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator DODD, I ask unanimous consent that Pam Bradley, a fellow in Senator DODD's office, be granted floor privileges for the duration of consideration of the Genetic Information Non-discrimination Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### FAA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007—MOTION TO PROCEED

##### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 383, H.R. 2881, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2007, and I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

##### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close the debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 383, H.R. 2881, the FAA reauthorization bill:

Harry Reid, Daniel K. Inouye, Barbara Boxer, Patty Murray, Byron L. Dorgan, Edward M. Kennedy, Christopher J. Dodd, Daniel K. Akaka, Benjamin L. Cardin, Patrick J. Leahy, Bernard Sanders, Sherrod Brown, Amy Klobuchar, Richard Durbin, Ken Salazar, Sheldon Whitehouse, Max Baucus.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Monday, April 28, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to invoke cloture at 4:30, with the time until 5:30 equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees; and that at 5:30 the Senate proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 2881, with the mandatory quorum call being waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### AUTHORITY TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the majority leader be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills and joint resolutions through the recess or adjournment of the Senate until Monday, April 28, of this year.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### AWARDING THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Banking Committee be discharged from consideration of H.R. 4286.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4286) to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in recognition of her courageous and unwavering commitment to peace, nonviolence, human rights and democracy in Burma.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to note Senate passage of H.R. 4286, legislation that would award the Congressional Gold Medal to the jailed prodemocracy leader and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi. The bill now goes to the President for his signature.

I am pleased to report that this legislation has enjoyed broad bipartisan support. Once again I am joined in this effort by my friend, the senior Senator from California. Senator FEINSTEIN and I introduced this legislation and it has 76 cosponsors. In this regard, I would like to thank Rich Harper of Senator FEINSTEIN's staff and Lucy Bean of my staff for their work on the bill.

When first established in 1776, the Congressional Gold Medal was given to military leaders for their achievements in battle. Since that time, it has become America's highest civilian honor, having been bestowed upon great friends of freedom such as Winston Churchill, Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King, Jr. Granting Suu Kyi the Gold Medal would continue that same tradition of honoring heroism in the defense of liberty.

For more than 20 years, Suu Kyi's support for justice and democracy has placed her at odds with the tyranny and oppression of the Burmese junta, the State Peace and Development Council, SPDC. She and her supporters have combated the brutality of the junta with peaceful protest and resistance. She has chosen dignity as her weapon, and she has found allies around the world to aid her in her struggle.

Despite the efforts of Suu Kyi and her allies, the SPDC will soon place a sham constitution before the people of Burma for an up-or-down vote. This might sound democratic, but no one is fooled. This proposed constitution includes language that would forbid Suu