

EC-4870. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the National Advisory Committee's Annual Report on Institutional Quality and Integrity for fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4871. A communication from the Director, Financial Management, Government Accountability Office, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report of the Comptrollers' General Retirement System for fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4872. A communication from the Acting Chief of Staff, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to financial integrity for fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4873. A communication from the Acting Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's financial report for fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4874. A communication from the Deputy Director for Administration and Information Management, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the competitions initiated during fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4875. A communication from the Comptroller General of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "A Call for Stewardship: Enhancing the Federal Government's Ability to Address Key Fiscal and Other 21st Century Challenges"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4876. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel and Designated Reporting Official, Office of National Drug Control Policy, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy and designation of an acting officer for the position of Deputy Director for State, Local and Tribal Affairs, received on January 7, 2008; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4877. A communication from the Co-Chief Privacy Officers, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to activities that affect privacy; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-4878. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department's competitive sourcing efforts of fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-4879. A communication from the Liaison, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of action on a nomination for the position of Secretary of Veterans Affairs, received on January 7, 2008; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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. VOINOVICH:

S. 2572. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for bonus depreciation or an additional minimum tax credit

in lieu of such bonus depreciation; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BURR (for himself and Mr. CRAIG):

S. 2573. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require a program of mental health care and rehabilitation for veterans for service-related post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety disorder, or a related substance use disorder, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. REID (for Mrs. CLINTON):

S. 2574. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the use of qualified mortgage revenue bonds for refinancing mortgages and to provide a temporary increase in the volume cap for such bonds; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. BAYH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ROBERTS, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. STEVENS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. 2575. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to remove certain limitations on the transfer of entitlement to basic educational assistance under Montgomery GI Bill, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. ALLARD, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 2576. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit for qualified expenditures paid or incurred to replace certain wood stoves; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. LEVIN, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 2577. A bill to establish background check procedures for gun shows; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COLEMAN (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. CASEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mrs. CLINTON):

S. 2578. A bill to temporarily delay application of proposed changes to Medicaid payment rules for case management and targeted case management services; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. INOUE (for himself and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 2579. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition and celebration of the establishment of the United States Army in 1775, to honor the American soldier of both today and yesterday, in wartime and in peace, and to commemorate the traditions, history, and heritage of the United States Army and its role in American society, from the colonial period to today; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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

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; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 2581. A bill to designate as wilderness additional National Forest System lands in the Monongahela National Forest in the State of West Virginia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. DORGAN:

S. Res. 437. A resolution establishing a special committee of the Senate to investigate the awarding and carrying out of contracts to conduct activities in Afghanistan and Iraq and to fight the war on terrorism; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

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

S. Res. 438. A resolution authorizing the printing with illustrations of a document entitled "Committee on Appropriations, United States Senate, 1867-2008"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 358

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 358, a bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of genetic information with respect to health insurance and employment.

S. 400

At the request of Mr. SUNUNU, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 400, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that dependent students who take a medically necessary leave of absence do not lose health insurance coverage, and for other purposes.

S. 414

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 414, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and the Federal Meat Inspection Act to require that food that contains product from a cloned animal be labeled accordingly, and for other purposes.

S. 439

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) 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. 714

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 714, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to ensure that all dogs and cats used by research facilities are obtained legally.

S. 960

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 960, a bill to establish the United States Public Service Academy.

S. 1070

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) were added as cosponsors 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. 1328

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1328, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate discrimination in the immigration laws by permitting permanent partners of United States citizens and lawful permanent residents to obtain lawful permanent resident status in the same manner as spouses of citizens and lawful permanent residents and to penalize immigration fraud in connection with permanent partnerships.

S. 1390

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1390, a bill to provide for the issuance of a "forever stamp" to honor the sacrifices of the brave men and women of the armed forces who have been awarded the Purple Heart.

S. 1747

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1747, a bill to regulate the judicial use of presidential signing statements in the interpretation of Act of Congress.

S. 1750

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1750, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to preserve access to community cancer care by Medicare beneficiaries.

S. 1780

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1780, a bill to require the FCC, in enforcing its regulations concerning the broadcast of indecent programming, to maintain a policy that a single word or image may be considered indecent.

S. 1991

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1991, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the suitability and feasibility of extending the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail to include additional sites associated with the preparation and return phases of the expedition, and for other purposes.

S. 2119

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from New Mexico

(Mr. DOMENICI) 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. 2146

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2146, a bill to authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to accept, as part of a settlement, diesel emission reduction Supplemental Environmental Projects, and for other purposes.

S. 2219

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2219, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to deliver a meaningful benefit and lower prescription drug prices under the Medicare Program.

S. 2335

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2335, a bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide adequate case management services.

S. 2439

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2439, a bill to require the National Incident Based Reporting System, the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, and the Law Enforcement National Data Exchange Program to list cruelty to animals as a separate offense category.

S. 2521

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

S. 2550

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2550, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from collecting certain debts owed to the United States by members of the Armed Forces and veterans who die as a result of an injury incurred or aggravated on active duty in a combat zone, and for other purposes.

S. 2566

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT), the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) were added as

cosponsors of S. 2566, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a Federal income tax credit for certain home purchases.

S. 2569

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2569, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Director of the National Cancer Institute to make grants for the discovery and validation of biomarkers for use in risk stratification for, and the early detection and screening of, ovarian cancer.

AMENDMENT NO. 3930

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3930 intended to be proposed to S. 2248, an original bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, to modernize and streamline the provisions of that Act, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3967

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAINE), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3967 intended to be proposed to S. 2483, a bill to authorize certain programs and activities in the Forest Service, the Department of the Interior, and the Department of Energy, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BURR (for himself and Mr. CRAIG):

S. 2573. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require a program of mental health care and rehabilitation for veterans for service-related post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety disorder, or a related substance use disorder, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I have sought recognition to comment on legislation I am introducing today that will hopefully chart a new course for veterans with mental illness—the Veterans Mental Health Treatment First Act.

As the title suggests, the bill proposes to advance a commonsense concept: Providing medical treatment for mental illness as a first priority will lead to a better quality of life for tens of thousands of veterans. It is a simple concept with which few would disagree.