

manufacturing license agreement for the export of defense services to the United Kingdom for the manufacture and assembly of component parts into completed SINGARDS Advanced Tactical Communication Systems; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6436. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the effectiveness of programs assisted under the Lead Contamination Control Act of 1988 for fiscal year 2005 to fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6437. A communication from the Deputy Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits" (73 FR 28037) received on May 29, 2008; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6438. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report for fiscal year 2007 relative to the Food and Drug Administration's adherence to conditions established in the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6439. A communication from the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report for the six-month period that ended March 31, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6440. A communication from the Chairperson, Committee for Purchase from People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, transmitting proposed amendments to the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6441. A communication from the Director, Strategic Human Resources Policy, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Nonforeign Area Cost-of-Living Allowance Rates; Puerto Rico and Hawaii County, HI" (RIN3206-AL28) received on May 29, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6442. 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 "Compensatory Time Off for Travel; Prevailing (Wage) Employees" (RIN3206-AL52) received on May 29, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6443. A communication from the General Counsel, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the discontinuation of service in an acting role for the position of Controller, received on May 29, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6444. A communication from the General Counsel, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Accounting for the Costs of Employee Stock Ownership Plans Sponsored by Government Contractors" (Docket No. 3110-01) received on May 29, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6445. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report for the period of October 1, 2007, to

March 31, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6446. A communication from the Acting Chief Acquisition Officer and Senior Procurement Executive, General Services Administration, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-25" (FAC 2005-25) received on May 29, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6447. A communication from the Federal Co-Chair, Appalachian Regional Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report for the period of October 1, 2007, through March 31, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6448. A communication from the Chairman, U.S. International Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report for the period of October 1, 2007, through March 31, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6449. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, "Auditor's Examination of Contract Cost and Administration for the Integrated Tax System"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6450. A communication from the Director, National Legislative Commission, The American Legion, transmitting, pursuant to law, statements describing the organization's financial condition as of December 31, 2007; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-6451. A communication from the White House Liaison, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination and change in previously submitted reported information for the position of U.S. Attorney, District of South Carolina, received on May 21, 2008; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-6452. A communication from the Acting Chief, Regulatory Management Division, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of a Genealogy Program" (RIN1615-AB19) received on May 21, 2008; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-6453. A communication from the White House Liaison, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, (2) reports relative to vacancy announcements within the Department, received on May 29, 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. VITTER:

S. 3076. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax deduction for itemizers and nonitemizers for expenses relating to home schooling; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. REID (for Mr. OBAMA (for himself, Mr. COBURN, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. MCCAIN)):

S. 3077. A bill to strengthen transparency and accountability in Federal spending; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mrs. CLINTON):

S. 3078. A bill to establish a National Innovation Council, to improve the coordination of innovation activities among industries in

the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. FEINGOLD, and Mr. BROWN):

S.J. Res. 37. A joint resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should sign the Declaration of the Oslo Conference on Cluster Munitions and future instruments banning cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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 and Mr. DODD):

S. Res. 581. A resolution designating June 6, 2008, as "National Huntington's Disease Awareness Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mrs. BOXER):

S. Con. Res. 86. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the United States, through the International Whaling Commission, should use all appropriate measures to end commercial whaling in all of its forms and seek to strengthen measures to conserve whale species; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 394

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 394, a bill to amend the Humane Methods of Livestock Slaughter Act of 1958 to ensure the humane slaughter of nonambulatory livestock, and for other purposes.

S. 399

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 399, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to include podiatrists as physicians for purposes of covering physicians services under the Medicaid program.

S. 582

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) 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. 937

At the request of Mr. KERRY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 937, a bill to improve support and services for individuals with autism and their families.

S. 970

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 970, a bill to impose sanctions on Iran and on other countries for assisting Iran in developing a nuclear program, and for other purposes.

S. 1042

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) 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. 1120

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1120, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide grants for the training of graduate medical residents in preventive medicine and public health.

S. 1183

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1183, a bill to enhance and further research into paralysis and to improve rehabilitation and the quality of life for persons living with paralysis and other physical disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 1204

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1204, a bill to enhance Federal efforts focused on public awareness and education about the risks and dangers associated with Shaken Baby Syndrome.

S. 1437

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1437, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the semicentennial of the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

S. 1951

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) 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. 1954

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) 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 South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT) 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. 2042

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from New Jersey

(Mr. MENENDEZ) 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. 2162

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2162, a bill to improve the treatment and services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and substance use disorders, and for other purposes.

S. 2173

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2173, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improve standards for physical education.

S. 2579

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) were added as cosponsors of 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.

S. 2667

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2667, a bill to direct the Attorney General to make an annual grant to the A Child Is Missing Alert and Recovery Center to assist law enforcement agencies in the rapid recovery of missing children, and for other purposes.

S. 2682

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2682, a bill to direct United States funding to the United Nations Population Fund for certain purposes.

S. 2736

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) 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. 2760

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2760, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance the national defense through empowerment of the National Guard, enhancement of the functions of the National Guard Bu-

reau, and improvement of Federal-State military coordination in domestic emergency response, and for other purposes.

S. 2818

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2818, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Public Health Service Act to provide for enhanced health insurance marketplace pooling and relating market rating.

S. 2858

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2858, a bill to establish the Social Work Reinvestment Commission to provide independent counsel to Congress and the Secretary of Health and Human Services on policy issues associated with recruitment, retention, research, and reinvestment in the profession of social work, and for other purposes.

S. 2932

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 2932, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the poison center national toll-free number, national media campaign, and grant program to provide assistance for poison prevention, sustain the funding of poison centers, and enhance the public health of people of the United States.

S. 2990

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2990, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access of Medicare beneficiaries to intravenous immune globulins.

S. 3070

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3070, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the Boy Scouts of America, and for other proposes.

S. RES. 551

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 551, a resolution celebrating 75 years of successful State-based alcohol regulation.

S. RES. 572

At the request of Mrs. DOLE, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 572, a resolution calling upon the Court of Appeal for the Second Appellate District of California to uphold the fundamental and constitutional right of parents to direct the upbringing and education of their children.

S. RES. 580

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 580, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapons capability.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REID (for Mr. OBAMA (for himself, Mr. COBURN, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. MCCAIN)):

S. 3077. A bill to strengthen transparency and accountability in Federal spending; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. OBAMA. I am proud today to introduce the Strengthening Transparency and Accountability in Federal Spending Act of 2008. This important legislation will improve Government transparency and give the American people greater tools to track and monitor nearly \$2 trillion of Government spending on contracts, grants, and other forms of assistance.

Throughout my time in public service, I have consistently fought to increase the openness and accessibility of Government and to encourage greater participation by people of all interests and backgrounds in public debates. One of the most important public debates is how Washington spends the people's money. Unfortunately, it has been far too difficult for ordinary citizens to see where, how, and why money is spent.

Congress took a big step toward improving transparency two years ago when it passed the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act that I introduced with Senator COBURN. That bill, which created the public website USASpending.gov, makes information about nearly all Federal grants, contracts, loans and other financial assistance available to the public in a regularly updated, user-friendly, and searchable format. The website includes the names of entities receiving Federal awards, the amounts of the awards, information on the awards including transaction types, funding agencies, location, and other information. Soon the website will also include information about subcontracts and subgrants.

Our work is not done however. The early success of USASpending.gov has demonstrated that additional public information should be made available. Whether you believe Government ought to spend more or spend less or

just spend differently, we all should be able to agree that Government spending should be transparent and that public information ought to be accessible to the public. We should also be able to agree that the quality of Government financial data must be improved and made more reliable.

Today I am pleased to be joined by Senators COBURN, CARPER, and MCCAIN on a bill to build upon USASpending.gov and further advance Government transparency. In addition to a few technical corrections, the bill we are introducing today will require the website to include additional public information, including a copy of each Federal contract in both PDF and searchable text format. The improved website will also include details about competitive bidding, the range of technically acceptable bids or proposals, the profit incentives offered for each contract, and the complete amount of money awarded, including any options to expand or extend under a contract.

With this legislation, the website will also show if a Federal grant or contract is the result of an earmark as well as provide an assessment of the quality of work performed. Ordinary citizens will be able to use the website to find information about Federal audit disputes and resolutions, terminations of Federal awards, contractor and grantee tax compliance, suspensions and debarments, and administrative agreements involving Federal award recipients. The website can also be used to find information about any civil, criminal, or administrative actions taken against Federal award recipients, including for violations related to the workplace, environmental protection, fraud, securities, and consumer protections.

Under the enhanced website, information about government lease agreements and assignments will be available in the same manner that information is reported for contracts and grants. Information about parent company ownership will also be available.

In addition to improving the transparency and accessibility of public data, our bill will also improve the quality and usability of data that is made available. For one thing the data on USASpending.gov will be accessible through an application programming interface. The bill also requires the use of unique award identifiers that prevent the release of personally identifiable information. Finally, the bill creates a simple method for the public to report errors and track the performance of agencies in confirming or correcting errors while also requiring regular audits of data quality.

People from every State in this great Nation sent us to Congress to defend their rights and stand up for their interests. To do that we have to tear down the barriers that separate citizens from the democratic process and to shine a brighter light on the inner workings of Washington.

This bill helps to shine that light. It is simple common sense and good gov-

ernance that has been endorsed by a diverse range of grassroots organizations and Government watchdog groups, including the American Association of Law Libraries, Americans for Democratic Action, Americans for Tax Reform, the Center for American Progress, the Center for Democracy & Technology, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, the Environmental Working Group, the Federation of American Scientists, the Government Accountability Project, the National Taxpayer Union, OMB Watch, OpenTheGovernment.org, POGO, Public Citizen, Science Corps, the Sunlight Foundation, Taxpayers for Common Sense Action, U.S. Action, and U.S. PIRG among others.

This bill continues the bipartisan progress we have made opening up Washington to greater scrutiny and oversight. I am grateful for continued grassroots leadership on these issues and I appreciate the hard work of my Senate colleagues. Together I know we can change the way business is done in this town and make our Government more accountable to the people who sent us here to work for them. I urge support for this important legislation.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mrs. CLINTON):

S. 3078. A bill to establish a National Innovation Council, to improve the coordination of innovation activities among industries in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the National Innovation and Job Creation Act, a bill which aims to spur the adoption of new technologies and practices that can accelerate economic growth and build a secure foundation for good, high-paying jobs. I am pleased that Senator CLINTON joins me in offering this legislation.

We are all familiar with the fiscal challenges our Nation will face in the coming years. Over the next 2 decades, more than 75 million members of the Baby Boom generation will leave the workforce and enter retirement. The loss of their participation in the workforce, coupled with our Social Security obligations and rising healthcare costs, will put enormous strains on our economy. So too will competition from other countries, brought about by increased international trade and globalization. If we do not act to strengthen our competitiveness, our nation's ability to create good, high-paying jobs will be severely tested.

Indeed, there are already troubling signs that our economy's competitive edge has been dulled, and we are losing ground to other nations. In just the last 4 months, we've seen 340,000 jobs lost across the country. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there are 1.6 million more workers unemployed today than in 2001, and 800,000 more workers unemployed than just