

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 186

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WEBB) and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. McCASKILL) were added as cosponsors of S. 186, a bill to provide appropriate protection to attorney-client privileged communications and attorney work product.

S. 901

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, his name was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 991

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 991, a bill to establish the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation under the authorities of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961.

S. 1069

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1069, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act regarding early detection, diagnosis, and treatment of hearing loss.

S. 1183

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor 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. 1232

At the request of Mr. DODD, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) were added as cosponsors of S. 1232, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, to develop a voluntary policy for managing the risk of food allergy and anaphylaxis in schools, to establish school-based food allergy management grants, and for other purposes.

S. 1924

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) 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. 1977

At the request of Mr. KERRY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1977, a bill to provide for sustained United States leadership in a cooperative global effort to prevent nuclear

terrorism, reduce global nuclear arsenals, stop the spread of nuclear weapons and related material and technology, and support the responsible and peaceful use of nuclear technology.

S. 2059

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WEBB) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2059, a bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to clarify the eligibility requirements with respect to airline flight crews.

S. 2505

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) 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. 2565

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2565, a bill to establish an awards mechanism to honor exceptional acts of bravery in the line of duty by Federal law enforcement officers.

S. 2579

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) 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. 2668

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2668, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove cell phones from listed property under section 280F.

S. 2669

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2669, a bill to provide for the implementation of a Green Chemistry Research and Development Program, and for other purposes.

S. 2672

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2672, a bill to provide incentives to physicians to practice in rural and medically underserved communities.

S. 2799

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S.

2799, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand and improve health care services available to women veterans, especially those serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2902

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2902, a bill to ensure the independent operation of the Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration, ensure complete analysis of potential impacts on small entities of rules, and for other purposes.

S. 2920

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2920, a bill to reauthorize and improve the financing and entrepreneurial development programs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 2931

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2931, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to exempt complex rehabilitation products and assistive technology products from the Medicare competitive acquisition program.

S. 2952

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2952, a bill to improve food safety through mandatory meat, meat product, poultry, and poultry product recall authority, to require the Secretary of Agriculture to improve communication about recalls with schools participating in the school lunch and breakfast programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2955

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2955, a bill to authorize funds to the Local Initiatives Support Corporation to carry out its Community Safety Initiative.

S. 2979

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2979, a bill to exempt the African National Congress from treatment as a terrorist organization, and for other purposes.

S. 3038

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3038, a bill to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to extend

the adoption incentives program, to authorize States to establish a relative guardianship program, to promote the adoption of children with special needs, and for other purposes.

S. 3061

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3061, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2008 through 2011 for the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, to enhance measures to combat trafficking in persons, and for other purposes.

S. 3093

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3093, a bill to extend and improve the effectiveness of the employment eligibility confirmation program.

S. 3134

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3134, a bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to require energy commodities to be traded only on regulated markets, and for other purposes.

S. 3141

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3141, a bill to provide for non-discrimination by eligible lenders in the Federal Family Education Loan Program.

S. 3143

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3143, a bill to assist law enforcement agencies in locating, arresting, and prosecuting fugitives from justice.

S. 3166

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3166, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to impose criminal penalties on individuals who assist aliens who have engaged in genocide, torture, or extrajudicial killings to enter the United States.

S. 3167

At the request of Mr. BURR, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors of S. 3167, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the conditions under which veterans, their surviving spouses, and their children may be treated as adjudicated mentally incompetent for certain purposes.

S. 3170

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3170, a bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to modify the conditions for the release of products from the Northeast Home

Heating Oil Reserve Account, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 580

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 4995

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4995 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3221, a bill to provide needed housing reform and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 5005

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 5005 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3221, a bill to provide needed housing reform and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 5020

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 5020 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3221, a bill to provide needed housing reform and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 3190. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require employers to notify their employees of the availability of the earned income credit; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I am pleased to introduce today, along with my colleague from the House, Rep. RAHM EMANUEL, an important and non-controversial bill designed to increase the percentage of eligible families that claim the Earned Income Tax Credit, or EITC, every year.

The bill is endorsed by the Service Employees International Union, SEIU, Wal-Mart, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, the Citizens for Tax Justice, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, Corporate Voices for Working Families, the College and University Professional Association for Human Resources, TJ Maxx, Kindred Healthcare, and Cintas.

Even in these tough economic times, Wal-Mart is still the nation's top private employer, and they place a huge emphasis on keeping their business costs low. If they are taking such a lead role on this bill, it should send a strong signal to the business community and to Republicans that it is a good idea and that the cost burden on business is next to nothing.

The EITC is a hugely important and popular program for working families. Started under President Ford after President Nixon advanced a similar

program, and expanded under virtually every President since, the EITC sends a message that if you work hard and play by the rules, you shouldn't live in poverty.

I know the program isn't perfect, but it's the best tax tool we have for helping working families make ends meet. Combined with the recent increase in the minimum wage that Democrats pushed through the Congress, the EITC is improving the lives of million of families.

For tax year 2006, more than \$44 billion in benefits were distributed to more than 22.4 million American families. That shows what a success the program is.

As one of the most populous states, with millions of working families of modest means, the numbers for New York State by itself are impressive. In 2006, nearly 1.5 million New York families took advantage of the EITC, claiming \$2.8 billion in benefits. That's an average of \$1,867 per family. But if the estimates from the Government Accountability Office are right and 25 percent of eligible families do not file for the credit, that's almost 500,000 families in my state who are missing out.

At an average EITC benefit of nearly \$1,900, that means that more than \$900 million could be going back into the pockets of New Yorkers—without a single change in the law—if we could find a way to reach these families. It could represent a second stimulus package for 500,000 working families as large as the one we passed earlier this year—and all eligible families have to do is ask for it.

With gasoline costing over \$4 a gallon, and health care and tuition costs on the rise, if we can get an average of \$1,900 into the pockets of 500,000 New York families, or 7.5 million people nationally—that's an opportunity we can't pass up.

Since these families are eligible for the credit under current law, it's not a policy that has to be scored or "paid for" under the PAYGO rules, because current law assumes these benefits will be paid. I can't imagine anyone objecting to this bill.

The Emanuel/Schumer legislation simply requires that employers notify their workers of their potential eligibility for the EITC when they send out the annual W-2 wage notice. To satisfy the notice requirement, employers would provide either a copy of IRS Notice 797, which explains how one qualifies for the EITC, or a separate written notice that is described in the language of the bill.

For those that might be concerned about the cost to business, our bill exempts firms with less than 25 employees.

This is a bill that is such common-sense, and represents such little cost to business, and offers such a large potential benefit to so many families, that it's something that we ought to be able to pass unanimously before the end of the year.