

members of the United States Armed Forces who made that success possible.

AMENDMENT NO. 4979

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4979 proposed to S. 3001, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 5266

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 5266 intended to be proposed to S. 3001, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 5271

At the request of Mr. VOINOVICH, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 5271 intended to be proposed to S. 3001, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 5281

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 5281 intended to be proposed to S. 3001, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 5282

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 5282 intended to be proposed to S. 3001, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 5298

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator

from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND), the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 5298 intended to be proposed to S. 3001, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 5302

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 5302 intended to be proposed to S. 3001, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 5319

At the request of Mr. SUNUNU, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 5319 intended to be proposed to S. 3001, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 5320

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 5320 intended to be proposed to S. 3001, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 5323

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr.

GRASSLEY), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WEBB) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 5323 proposed to S. 3001, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 5323 proposed to S. 3001, *supra*.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. FEINGOLD:

S. 3461. A bill to evaluate certain certification programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today I introduce a simple bill that is the first step toward helping American workers and businesses. The Skills Standards Certification Evaluation Act of 2008 will require the Secretaries of Labor and Commerce to evaluate skills standards certification programs that have been developed with Federal funding.

Skills Standards Certifications have emerged in the past 2 decades in response to job growth in high-technology and varied industries. The training or classes usually take weeks or months, rather than years. Often, they are developed in response to the needs of one industry or even one company, though the skills may be applicable more widely.

The Federal government has taken conflicting approaches to skills standards certifications over the past two decades. That is why, as part of the Skills Standards Certification Evaluation Act, I require a recommendation from the Secretaries of Labor and Commerce on how Congress ought to move forward with funding for these certification programs. Both the national, top-down, and a local, bottom-up approach have been tried, and a thorough evaluation will make clear how we can move forward to get the most out of the funding the Federal Government provides.

These certifications have a tremendous benefit for workers. First, because the training is often condensed into a few weeks with a flexible schedule, it allows people to complete certifications without leaving a current job and without the financial cost of attending a full-time program that lasts a year or more. In addition, these programs allow workers to clearly demonstrate a certain set of skills, and may open more doors for higher-paying employment. Because these programs can be completed without leaving work, they also allow workers to advance within a career or company to

more skilled positions and better wages and benefits.

For employers, Skills Standards Certifications can simplify the search for employees. I have heard from numerous Wisconsin employers, especially small businesses with limited resources, that it is hard to find employees with the skills they need, or who will be dedicated and loyal. Skills Standards Certifications clearly show the qualification of an individual, of course, but also tell the employer that he or she is dedicated enough to invest in the course to earn the certificate. Very few people will spend the time and money to enroll in such a program if they don't intend to use the certificate.

Lastly, these programs can help State and local governments quantify their skilled workforce, which can be invaluable when marketing the area to businesses and investment.

This bill is a small first step in what I hope can be a continuing effort to help hard working Americans obtain and use high-demand work skills.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. HATCH):

S. 3464. A bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to improve the international protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to express my support for International Intellectual Property Protection and Enforcement Act of 2008 S. 3464, introduced by my friend from Montana, Senate Finance Committee Chairman MAX BAUCUS and myself. This piece of legislation represents months of hard work and collaboration, and I am pleased that we have finally arrived at a consensus on this very important global issue.

The protection of intellectual property has always been one of my top legislative priorities in the Senate. Now more than ever, America's ingenuity continues to fuel our economy, and it is imperative that we protect new ideas and investments in innovation and creativity. Make no mistake about it: piracy and counterfeiting are the new face of economic crime around the world, far exceeding traditional property crimes.

It is estimated that U.S. intellectual property alone is worth \$5 to \$5.5 trillion, that is equivalent to about 45 percent of our GDP. In other words, this is greater than the entire GDP of any other nation in the world. Additionally, millions and millions of jobs are created every year by U.S. IP industries. And, I might add, these jobs earn an average of 40 percent more than the average pay of other U.S. jobs. Without doubt, America's Intellectual property drives our economy and is the envy of the world and we must do everything to protect our prime status as a world leader on this front.

Counterfeiting and piracy aren't just about downloaded music, pirated soft-

ware, or fake designer hand bags. It's about the health and safety of the American people. Indeed, counterfeiting and piracy affect all sectors of our economy, including pharmaceuticals, auto parts, and the quality and safety of our food.

S. 3464 will serve as an important bridge in the battle to protect U.S. intellectual property rights overseas. With the rising tide of piracy and counterfeiting abroad, it is vital that we provide those working on the front lines with the tools they need to ensure that our nation's IP rights are lawfully respected by foreign countries.

To that end, S. 3464 will require the U.S. Trade Representative, USTR, to press countries that violate U.S. intellectual property rights to take specific steps to stop violations by developing an action plan for each foreign country that has remained on USTR's "Priority Watch List" of intellectual property deficient countries for at least one year. The action plan must list the legislative, enforcement, or other actions that the foreign country must take in order to achieve adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights.

The legislation also provides funds to increase USTR's ability to partner with developing countries to improve IP protection and enforcement, including capacity building, activities designed to increase awareness of intellectual property rights, and training for officials responsible for enforcing the laws. Additionally, the bill give the President enforcement tools to deal with countries that refuse to fight widespread theft of our Nation's IP.

I am committed to moving this legislation forward and hope that we will do so in an expeditious manner.

By Mr. FEINGOLD:

S. 3466. A bill to improve the job access and reverse commute program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today I introduce another piece of my E4 initiative, so named because it is a collection of proposals that address issues important to the economy, education, employment and energy. The piece of legislation I am introducing now focuses on the important supporting role that transportation can play in economic development by creating an environment where employers and those seeking employment or better employment are connected together. Having such a system to overcome transportation hurdles can benefit both employers and employees, as well as the local economy.

In more general terms, investing in our infrastructure like roads, bridges and transit systems can have direct job creation impacts. This is one reason I have fought hard with the rest of the delegation for a fair rate of return for Wisconsin from the highway bill. I was glad the most recent 2005 bill continued

a recent streak of getting at least a 1:1 rate of return after decades of being a donor state and not getting a fair share.

In addition to supporting transportation-related jobs, linking workers and businesses that need them can also be an important part of a more comprehensive job creation strategy. This can mean supporting a robust public transportation system or more specific programs designed to link low-income individuals with jobs. I have consistently done the former by supporting public transportation during consideration of the highway bill and Amtrak reauthorizations. But my specific proposal today focuses on the latter and improving the Job Access and Reverse Commute, JARC, program that links low-income workers with employers.

I have heard good things about the JARC program and was glad that it was shifted away from earmarks and was made available as a combination formula and competitively awarded program in the last highway bill. The primary program goal is to locally assess the transportation needs of low-income workers and then plan and fund programs to help alleviate transportation-related barriers to employment or better employment. While the traditional vision for these projects may have begun as reverse commute projects whereby transit routes were established to allow city center residents to access jobs in the suburbs, the program actually does much more than just this and provides reliable transportation to low-income urban, rural and suburban workers.

In Wisconsin, the Federal JARC program is jointly administered by the State departments of transportation and workforce development as the Wisconsin Employment Transportation Assistance Program, WETAP. According to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, transportation barriers can include a lack of a dependable vehicle or bus service in the area, an absence of local jobs, or child care transportation problems.

The State agencies in Wisconsin have found several different types of projects to be effective, depending on the local circumstances. These projects have included the traditional public transit projects such as extending bus lines or supporting van-pooling, along with other programs such as providing cars or car repairs to low-income individuals. Wisconsin has even found that assisting with indirect barriers such as transportation of children to and from child care facilities is critical in allowing some individuals to improve their job prospects.

A recent University of Illinois Chicago study found that the societal benefits from this program are \$1.65 per dollar spent and estimated lifetime benefits to low-income participants of \$15 per dollar spent due to their ability to find and retain better paying jobs. While the goals of the Job Access and Reverse Commute program are important and the program has been found to

be fairly effective, there are some details that have prevented the program from reaching its full potential. Working closely with transportation officials in Wisconsin and partially based on recommendations from the UIC study, I've come up with some specific ideas to improve the program.

With a proven effective program and continuing unmet needs by employers and low-income individuals seeking employment, it seems clear to me that JARC could use a boost in funding. So that is why my proposal ramps up funding by \$100 million over 5 years from the current funding of \$165 million to \$265 million in fiscal year 2014.

My proposal would also allow the Federal share of projects to increase to 80 percent from the current 50 percent level for operating expenses. The 50 percent local and State match wasn't feasible for far too many local governments in Wisconsin and as a result Wisconsin has not been able to spend all its Federal funds. The higher Federal cost share will better balance the need to leverage Federal funds, while ensuring that these critical funds are fully utilized—millions of dollars in an account does nothing to link people to jobs.

Besides the challenge in coming up with a 50 percent local cost share, the other main issue that has kept JARC from being as effective as it could be is the paperwork and reporting burden required by the program, especially for the small nonprofit groups that often have never dealt with Federal grant requirements before. My proposal directs the Federal Transit Agency, FTA, to examine the current reporting requirements to see if there are ways to streamline the amount of paperwork required while still ensuring that the program goals are met.

My bill also includes a pilot program funded at \$10 million a year for 5 years in order to test a few areas that seem very promising, but should be evaluated more before broader implementation. The first portion of the pilot program builds off the regulatory streamlining evaluation and allows the FTA to test streamlined reporting requirements to help get the balance between oversight and administrative burden in proper balance.

The second part of the pilot program focuses on improving education and employment-related transportation for teens and young adults. Enabling students and young people to reliably get between their high schools or neighborhoods and technical colleges, job training centers or apprenticeships can have a life-long positive impact.

The third section of the pilot program would allow experimentation with combining different transit programs and integrating JARC projects across local political boundaries to provide a more comprehensive local transportation system. Instead of having one transit program to assist the disabled, one targeted toward the elderly and another focused on jobs, this

pilot program would encourage funding combined applications to meet these needs together with one comprehensive project. There is even the potential for the Department of Transportation to further coordinate with other departments such as Health and Human Services for health care-related transportation. Similarly, the needs of employers for employees does not recognize local political boundaries, so encouraging greater collaboration between local entities to make a more robust interconnected system should ultimately provide more efficient and effective service.

While the FTA already provides some technical assistance for the JARC program, my proposal provides a small boost in funding and some additional areas of emphasis. For example, after hearing about the struggles that some small nonprofits have with the reporting requirements, in addition to looking for ways to streamline the requirements, my proposal would direct the FTA to also provide some technical assistance especially targeted to this need.

The final element of my proposal is the offset. The new spending authorized in the proposal is fully offset by rescinding highway and bridge earmarks that have not had funds spent from them despite being authorized over a decade ago as part of the TEA-21 highway bill. Helping connect workers and employers is a much better use of these funds than letting them sit unused in some obscure DOT account.

Providing reliable transportation to low-income individuals only goes so far—it is the companies and innovators creating the jobs and the individuals seeking to better their lot through education or more challenging employment, that are doing the heavy lifting. That being said, transportation can clearly be a challenge for companies and workers and in the case of the JARC program can play an important supporting role.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 653—CELEBRATING THE OUTSTANDING ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL TEAM FOR ACHIEVING ITS 800TH ALL-TIME VICTORY

Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. VOINOVICH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 653

Whereas, on September 6, 2008, The Ohio State University football team, known as the "Buckeyes," achieved its 800th win, becoming the 5th major college football program to reach this mark;

Whereas the Buckeyes have an all-time record of 800 wins, 304 losses, and 53 ties in their 119 seasons;

Whereas, in 1890, the Buckeyes played their first game, and since have become a symbol

of pride and tradition for the past and present members of The Ohio State University community;

Whereas The Ohio State University has the largest self-supporting athletics program in the country;

Whereas The Ohio State University continues to strive for academic excellence in sports, ranking first in the Big Ten Academic All-Conference Team for the 2007-08 academic year;

Whereas, there are 1,877 Buckeye All-Americans in the history of the program;

Whereas the Ohio State athletic program strives to improve the academic quality of The Ohio State University by donating key funding to renovate Ohio State's academic facilities, including the recent donation to the William Oxley Thompson Memorial Library;

Whereas Ohio State strives for diversity at all levels and was commended nationally in 2007-08 for its National Collegiate Athletic Association academic progress rate, Overall Excellence in Diversity, and for ranking 2nd in the Degree Completion Program;

Whereas each year Ohio State student-athletes and coaches are involved in thousands of hours of community service;

Whereas each player, coach, and contributor to the team remained committed to ensuring that the Buckeyes achieved this historic accomplishment; and

Whereas all supporters of The Ohio State University are to be praised for their dedication to, and pride in, The Ohio State University football program: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates The Ohio State University football team for achieving 800 victories in its 119-year-history;

(2) recognizes The Ohio State University athletic program for its accomplishments in both sports and academics; and

(3) requests the Secretary of the Senate to prepare an official copy of this resolution for presentation to—

(A) The Ohio State University for appropriate display;

(B) the President of The Ohio State University, Dr. E. Gordon Gee; and

(C) the head coach of The Ohio State University football team, Mr. Jim Tressel.

SENATE RESOLUTION 654—HONORING THE LIFE AND RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE HONORABLE STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE 11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF OHIO

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. VOINOVICH, and Mr. HATCH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 654

Whereas Stephanie Tubbs Jones was born on September 10, 1949, in Cleveland, Ohio, and attended Case Western Reserve University and the Franklin Thomas Backus School of Law;

Whereas, in 1982, at the age of 33, Stephanie Tubbs Jones was elected to serve on the Cleveland Municipal Court;

Whereas, in 1983, Stephanie Tubbs Jones became the first African-American woman to serve on the Court of Common Pleas in the State of Ohio;

Whereas Stephanie Tubbs Jones served as the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor from 1991 through 1999, becoming the first woman and the first African-American to hold the position;