

S. 2433

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2433, a bill to require the President to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to further the United States foreign policy objective of promoting the reduction of global poverty, the elimination of extreme global poverty, and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal of reducing by one-half the proportion of people worldwide, between 1990 and 2015, who live on less than \$1 per day.

At the request of Mr. DODD, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2433, *supra*.

S. 2510

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2510, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide revised standards for quality assurance in screening and evaluation of gynecologic cytology preparations, and for other purposes.

S. 2550

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors 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. 2560

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2560, a bill to create the income security conditions and family supports needed to ensure permanency for the Nation's unaccompanied youth, and for other purposes.

S. 2568

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2568, a bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to prohibit preleasing, leasing, and related activities in the Chukchi and Beaufort Sea Planning Areas unless certain conditions are met.

S. 2569

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) 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.

S. 2578

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) was added as a co-

sponsor of S. 2578, a bill to temporarily delay application of proposed changes to Medicaid payment rules for case management and targeted case management services.

S. 2585

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2585, a bill to provide for the enhancement of the suicide prevention programs of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

S. 2587

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2587, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for compensation to States incarcerating undocumented aliens charged with a felony or 2 or more misdemeanors.

S. 2588

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2588, a bill to require that funds awarded to States and political subdivisions for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program be distributed not later than 120 days after the last day of the annual application period.

S. 2596

At the request of Mr. DEMINT, the names of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. McCONNELL) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 2596, a bill to rescind funds appropriated by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008, for the City of Berkeley, California, and any entities located in such city, and to provide that such funds shall be transferred to the Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps account of the Department of Defense for the purposes of recruiting.

S. 2602

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2602, a bill to amend the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008, to terminate the authority of the Secretary of the Treasury to deduct amounts from certain States.

S. RES. 439

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 439, a resolution expressing the strong support of the Senate for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to enter into a Membership Action Plan with Georgia and Ukraine.

AMENDMENT NO. 3910

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3910 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. 3912

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3912 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. 3920

At the request of Mr. BOND, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3920 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 name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor 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 Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. INOUE, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2624. A bill to regulate political robocalls, to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Robocall Privacy Act of 2008, cosponsored by my colleagues Senator SPECTER, Senator INOUE and Senator DURBIN. This is a simple, straight-forward bill that would allow continued political outreach through prerecorded phone messages, but protect American families from being inundated by calls all through the day and night.

In recent years, we have seen an unparalleled development of new technologies that help political candidates reach out to voters.

This is a good thing. Political speech is essential, and should be protected. The vast majority of these technological developments bolster the Democratic process, promoting an interchange of information and ideas.

One of these is the so-called robocall, in which a prerecorded message can be sent out to tens of thousands of voters at a minor cost through computer automation.

With television and radio ads becoming so expensive, these prerecorded calls can play an important role alerting voters to a candidate's position and urging their support at the polls.

A recent Pew Foundation poll found that 80 percent of Iowans in the recent primaries received automated political robocalls. A high level of sophistication goes into these robocalls—they are targeted and specific software dictates who is called, and when.

But the process can be abused. And we all have heard stories about people being called over and over and over again at all hours of the day and night.

I believe this is wrong. Not only is it interfering with the privacy rights of Americans, but it can turn people away from the political process itself.

Commercial calls are already limited by the Federal Trade Commission's "Do Not Call" list—with millions of individuals subscribing. But political calls were specifically exempted from that list.

Let me be clear: I am not seeking to eliminate all robocalls. Instead, this legislation is carefully designed to provide some safeguards without halting the practice altogether.

The Robocall Privacy Act of 2008 bans political robocalls to any person from 9 p.m. in the evening and a.m. in the morning.

It also bans more than two political robocalls from each campaign to the same telephone number per day, bans the caller from blocking the "caller identification" number, and requires an announcement at the beginning of the call identifying the individual or organization making the call and the fact that it is a pre-recorded message. This is to prevent misinformation about the caller.

The enforcement provisions of this bill are simple and intent on stopping the worst of these calls. The bill creates a civil fine for violators of the law, with additional fines for callers who willfully violate the law.

The bill also allows voters to sue to stop those calls immediately, but not receive money damages. A judge can order violators of the law to stop these abusive calls.

Why are these provisions so important? Let me briefly describe some recent incidents:

Hundreds of robocalls woke voters up at 2 in the morning during a 2007 New York election—because of a software programming error. The calls were supposed to occur at 2 p.m.

In the Nebraska 3rd District Congressional Election, voters complained to candidate Scott Kleeb when they received dozens of calls, containing poor-quality versions of his voice. Kleeb's supporters claim that his voice was recorded, and used in an abusive robocall against him.

In the 2006 Congressional elections, many calls wrongly implied that one candidate was making a robocall. The message began with a recorded voice stating that the call contained information about U.S. Representative MELISSA BEAN. Some voters called BEAN's office to complain without listening to the entire message, which eventually identified an opposing party committee as the sponsor—when most voters had hung up. Representative BEAN had to spend campaign funds informing voters she had not made that call.

The National Do Not Call Network—a nonprofit focused on this issue—has indicated voters receive many calls a

day. They have reported as much as 37 political phone calls in one day for one voter. That same organization reports that 40 percent of its membership indicated it received between 5 and 9 calls a day during the election season.

In a recent Texas campaign, a negative robocall was sent to voters early in the morning—supposedly from one of the candidates. That candidate immediately protested it was not done on his behalf—but instead was an attempt to smear him by using his name. Voters became furious at the call.

In a Maryland race in November 2006, in a conservative area residents received a middle-of-the-night robocall from the nonexistent "Gay and Lesbian Push," urging them to support one of the candidates. That candidate lost the election, and enraged voters about the false, late-night call.

Repeated robocalls to Tennessee resident Jonathan Gregory caused him to complain to The Tennessean newspaper: "It's extremely annoying, and it's like getting telemarketing calls at work. . . . I think they should have some type of limit on how many times they can call the same number."

A February 1 Letter to the Editor of the Harrisburg Patriot-News, from a woman from East Pennsboro, PA, indicated that she received many political robocalls to her personal cell phone and was billed for each call.

I am a strong supporter of the First Amendment protection for political speech and I want to encourage the free exchange of information about candidates.

But I also believe people should have a right to be protected from the most egregious forms of abuse.

However, the worst of these calls are disturbing people in their homes by forcing them to answer calls and listen again and again. Something must be done.

The bill does not ban robocalls. It merely provides a reasonable framework of tailored time, place, and manner restrictions.

I hope my colleagues join me in supporting the Robocall Privacy Act of 2008.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

##### SENATE RESOLUTION 447—HONORING FRIENDSHIP FORCE INTERNATIONAL AND RECOGNIZING MARCH 1, 2008 AS WORLD FRIENDSHIP DAY

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

S. RES. 447

Whereas the nonprofit organization Friendship Force International was founded in Atlanta in 1977 to promote international understanding and good will;

Whereas, since 1977, nearly 1,000,000 individuals all over the world have traveled as Friendship Force Citizen Ambassadors or

opened their homes as hosts in order to promote international understanding;

Whereas, today, Friendship Force International has more than 35,000 members in 40 States and 58 foreign countries who are building bridges across the cultural barriers that separate people;

Whereas, in order to celebrate on an annual basis its mission to support the cause of peace through international understanding, Friendship Force International has set March 1 of each year as World Friendship Day; and

Whereas Friendship Force International chapters around the world are urging people everywhere to celebrate World Friendship Day on March 1, 2008: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) honors Friendship Force International for promoting international understanding and good will in the world; and

(2) recognizes the celebration of World Friendship Day on March 1, 2008, and asks people everywhere to mark and celebrate the day appropriately.

##### SENATE RESOLUTION 448—MAKING MINORITY PARTY APPOINTMENTS FOR THE 110TH CONGRESS

Mr. MCCONNELL submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 448

*Resolved*, That the following be the minority membership on the following committee for the remainder of the 110th Congress, or until their successors are appointed:

Committee on Foreign Relations: Mr. Lugar, Mr. Hagel, Mr. Coleman, Mr. Corker, Mr. Voinovich, Ms. Murkowski, Mr. DeMint, Mr. Isakson, Mr. Vitter, Mr. Barrasso.

##### SENATE RESOLUTION 449—CONDEMNING IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS PRESIDENT OF IRAN MAHMOUD AHMADINEJAD'S STATEMENTS REGARDING THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND THE HOLOCAUST AND CALLING FOR ALL MEMBER STATES OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO DO THE SAME

Mr. SMITH (for himself, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. COLEMAN, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. DOLE, and Mr. MARTINEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 449

Whereas President of Iran Mahmoud Ahmadinejad stated on October 26, 2005, that "The establishment of the Zionist regime was a move by the world oppressor against the Islamic world";

Whereas President Ahmadinejad stated on October 26, 2005, that "Anybody who recognizes Israel will burn in the fire of the Islamic nation's fury";

Whereas President Ahmadinejad stated on October 26, 2005, that "There is no doubt that the new wave in Palestine will soon wipe off this disgraceful blot from the face of the Islamic world";

Whereas President Ahmadinejad stated on October 26, 2005, "Is it possible for us to witness a world without America and Zionism? But you should know that this slogan, this goal, can certainly be achieved";