

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 3594. A bill to protect United States citizens from unlawful arrest and detention; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. ENSIGN):

S. 3595. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the Nevada System of Higher Education certain Federal land located in Clark and Nye counties, Nevada, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 3596. A bill to stabilize the small business lending market, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 3597. A bill to provide that funds allocated for community food projects for fiscal year 2008 shall remain available until September 30, 2009; considered and passed.

By Mr. INOUE (for himself, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. SMITH, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BIDEN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. MARTINEZ):

S. 3598. A bill to amend titles 46 and 18, United States Code, with respect to the operation of submersible vessels and semi-submersible vessels without nationality; considered and passed.

By Mr. KYL:

S. 3599. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to add crimes committed in Indian country or exclusive Federal jurisdiction as racketeering predicates; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KYL:

S. 3600. A bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KYL (for himself and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 3601. A bill to authorize funding for the National Crime Victim Law Institute to provide support for victims of crime under Crime Victims Legal Assistance Programs as a part of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KYL:

S. 3602. A bill to authorize funding for the National Crime Victim Law Institute to provide support for victims of crime under Crime Victims Legal Assistance Programs as a part of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. ENSIGN):

S. 3603. A bill to promote conservation and provide for sensible development in Carson City, Nevada, 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. BROWN:

S. Res. 685. A resolution designating the last week of September 2008 as "National Voter Awareness Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 211

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from South Da-

kota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 211, a bill to facilitate nationwide availability of 2-1-1 telephone service for information and referral on human services, volunteer services, and for other purposes.

S. 400

At the request of Mr. SUNUNU, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) 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. 826

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 826, a bill to posthumously award a Congressional gold medal to Alice Paul, in recognition of her role in the women's suffrage movement and in advancing equal rights for women.

S. 1492

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1492, a bill to improve the quality of federal and state data regarding the availability and quality of broadband services and to promote the deployment of affordable broadband services to all parts of the Nation.

S. 1738

At the request of Mr. VITTER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1738, a bill to require the Department of Justice to develop and implement a National Strategy Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction, to improve the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, to increase resources for regional computer forensic labs, and to make other improvements to increase the ability of law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute child predators.

At the request of Mr. REID, his name and the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1738, *supra*.

S. 2405

At the request of Mr. BAYH, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2405, a bill to provide additional appropriations for payments under section 2604(e) of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981.

S. 2641

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2641, a bill to amend title XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to improve the transparency of information on skilled nursing facilities and nursing facilities and to clarify and improve the targeting of the enforcement of requirements with respect to such facilities.

S. 2668

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from Indiana

(Mr. LUGAR), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2668, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove cell phones from listed property under section 280F.

S. 2883

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG) were added as cosponsors of S. 2883, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of Mother's Day.

S. 3070

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, his name was withdrawn 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. 3308

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3308, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to permit facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs to be designated as voter registration agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 3325

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG), the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3325, a bill to enhance remedies for violations of intellectual property laws, and for other purposes.

S. 3331

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3331, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that the payment of the manufacturers' excise tax on recreational equipment be paid quarterly.

S. 3367

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3367, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to revise the timeframe for recognition of certain designations in certifying rural health clinics under the Medicare program.

S. 3389

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3389, a bill to require, for the benefit of shareholders, the disclosure of payments to foreign governments for the extraction of natural resources, to allow such shareholders more appropriately to determine associated risks.

S. 3419

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Arkansas

(Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3419, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to modernize the disability benefits claims processing system of the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure the accurate and timely delivery of compensation to veterans and their families and survivors, and for other purposes.

S. 3484

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 3484, a bill to provide for a delay in the phase out of the hospice budget neutrality adjustment factor under title XVIII of the Social Security Act.

S. 3517

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3517, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Public Health Service Act to provide parity under group health plans and group health insurance coverage for the provision of benefits for prosthetic devices and components and benefits for other medical and surgical services.

S. 3525

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 3525, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the bicentennial of the writing of the "Star-Spangled Banner", and for other purposes.

S. 3527

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3527, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize advance appropriations for certain medical care accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs by providing two-fiscal year budget authority.

S. 3532

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 3532, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the Secretary of the Treasury to establish the standard mileage rate for use of a passenger automobile for purposes of the charitable contributions deduction and to exclude charitable mileage reimbursements from gross income.

S. 3538

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3538, a bill to amend the Food, Con-

servation, and Energy Act of 2008 to suspend a prohibition on payments to certain farms with limited base acres for the 2008 and 2009 crop years, to extend the sign-up for direct payments and counter-cyclical payments for the 2008 crop year, and for other purposes.

S. 3539

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3539, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America.

S. 3569

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 3569, a bill to make improvements in the operation and administration of the Federal courts, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 499

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 499, a resolution urging Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, who is also the head of the Fatah Party, to officially abrogate the 10 articles in the Fatah Constitution that call for Israel's destruction and terrorism against Israel, oppose any political solution, and label Zionism as racism.

S. RES. 664

At the request of Mrs. DOLE, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 664, a resolution celebrating the centennial of Union Station in Washington, District of Columbia.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mr. HARKIN):

S. 3577. A bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to prevent excessive price speculation with respect to energy and agricultural commodities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, energy prices are on a roller coaster, taking American consumers and the American economy on an unpredictable, expensive, and damaging ride. Just over a year ago, a barrel of crude oil sold for \$70 a barrel. In less than a year, the price doubled to nearly \$147. Last week, that same barrel of oil cost \$91, a price drop of \$56 over a few months. Just in the past week crude oil prices have jumped from about \$96 per barrel to \$130 per barrel and then back to \$106 per barrel. No one knows whether, by the end of the year, the price of oil will stay around \$100, drop lower, or climb back up. The huge price spikes we ex-

perienced can't be explained by changes in supply and demand; about half the trading in oil futures results from speculation as to whether oil prices will rise or fall by traders without any interest in actually using the oil they are buying and selling.

The natural gas, gasoline, and heating oil markets have also seen huge price swings. The prices are up, they are down, they are unpredictable—making it impossible for many businesses and consumers to afford even basic goods and services.

The sky-high oil and gasoline prices in effect for the last year are taking a tremendous toll on millions of American consumers and businesses. Speculation—not supply and demand—is keeping prices high, and our economy is forced to respond to erratic price changes. Unless we act to protect our energy markets from excessive speculation and price manipulation, the American economy will continue to be vulnerable to wild price swings affecting the prices of transportation, food, manufacturing and everything in between, endangering the economic security of our people, our businesses, and our Nation.

Congress should act now to help tame rampant speculation and reinvigorate supply and demand as market forces.

Today, I am introducing legislation, along with Senators BINGAMAN and HARKIN, that represents our collective effort to enact the strongest and most workable measures to prevent excessive speculation and price manipulation in U.S. energy markets. It will close the loopholes in our commodities laws that now impede the policing of U.S. energy trades on foreign exchanges and in the unregulated over-the-counter market. It will ensure that large commodity traders cannot use these markets to hide from CFTC oversight or avoid limits on speculation. The bill will strengthen disclosure, oversight, and enforcement in U.S. energy markets, restoring the financial oversight that is crucial to protect American consumers, American businesses, and the U.S. economy from further energy shocks.

More specifically, this legislation would make four sets of changes.

It will require the CFTC to set limits on the holdings of traders in all of the energy futures contracts traded on regulated exchanges to prevent traders from engaging in excessive speculation or price manipulation. Since we closed the Enron loophole this year all futures contracts must be traded in regulated markets.

It would close the "London loophole" by giving the CFTC the same authority to police traders in the United States who trade U.S. futures contracts on a foreign exchange and by requiring foreign exchanges that want to install trading terminals in the U.S. to impose comparable limits on speculative trading as the CFTC imposes on domestic exchanges to prevent excessive speculation and price manipulation.