

S. 1681

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. KAUFMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1681, a bill to ensure that health insurance issuers and medical malpractice insurance issuers cannot engage in price fixing, bid rigging, or market allocations to the detriment of competition and consumers.

S. 1728

At the request of Mrs. McCASKILL, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1728, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyer credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

S. 1739

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1739, a bill to promote freedom of the press around the world.

S. 1744

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1744, a bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to prescribe regulations to ensure that all crewmembers on air carriers have proper qualifications and experience, and for other purposes.

S. 1777

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1777, a bill to facilitate the remediation of abandoned hardrock mines, and for other purposes.

S. 1801

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1801, a bill to establish the First State National Historical Park in the State of Delaware, and for other purposes.

S. 1809

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1809, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to promote the certification of aftermarket conversion systems and thereby encourage the increased use of alternative fueled vehicles.

S. 1820

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1820, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish national standards for discharges from cruise vessels.

S. 1822

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1822, a bill to amend the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, with respect to considerations

of the Secretary of the Treasury in providing assistance under that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1832

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) were added as cosponsors of S. 1832, a bill to increase loan limits for small business concerns, provide for low interest refinancing for small business concerns, and for other purposes.

S. 1833

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1833, a bill to amend the Credit Card Accountability Responsibility and Disclosure Act of 2009 to establish an earlier effective date for various consumer protections, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 317

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 317, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and expressing the sense of the Senate that Congress should continue to raise awareness of domestic violence in the United States and its devastating effects on families and communities, and support programs designed to end domestic violence.

S. RES. 318

At the request of Mr. DODD, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 318, a resolution supporting "Lights On After-school", a national celebration of afterschool programs.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. McCAIN:

S. 1836. A bill to prohibit the Federal Communications Commission from further regulating the Internet; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, today I am pleased to introduce legislation that would prohibit the Federal Communications Commission from enacting rules that would seek to regulate the Internet. Today the commission will meet to determine whether the historically open architecture and free flow of the Internet should be subject to onerous Federal regulation. Specifically, the commission will seek to impose "net neutrality" rules that would

reign in the network management practices of all Internet service providers, including wireless phone companies.

Skeptical consumers should rightly view these new rules as yet another government power grab over a private service provided by a private company in a competitive marketplace. Earlier this year the administration moved to control much of the auto industry and the banking industry and now the administration is trying to control the technology industry by regulating its very core: the Internet.

This government takeover of the Internet will stifle innovation, in turn slowing our economic turnaround and further depressing an already anemic job market. Outside of health care, the technology industry is the nation's fastest growing job market. Innovation and job growth in this sector of our economy is the key to America's future prosperity. In 2008, while most industries were slashing jobs in the worst economy in nearly 30 years, high tech industries actually added over 77,000 good high-paying jobs. Just this month, Google and Yahoo both released positive earnings reports.

According to a report released last week by the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board, which oversees the stimulus plan, 30,000 jobs have been directly created or saved by contractors who received money from the \$787 billion stimulus package for infrastructure and social programs. This pales in comparison to the fact that the high tech industry produced more than double the number of jobs so far "created or saved" by the so-called "stimulus legislation." It did so without the assistance of \$787 billion from the wallets of taxpayers. Maybe a better stimulus package for this economy would be an administration decision to keep the Internet free of government control and regulation.

Unfortunately, the administration seems oblivious to the fact that their stated opposition to the supposed excesses of capitalism is at odds with a new regulatory regime being lobbied for by the most powerful businesses. As the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission has recognized, Americans have benefitted enormously from the Internet's "fundamental architecture of openness." The light touch regulatory approach toward the Internet that was advanced by previous administrations has brought Americans social networking, low cost long distance calling, texting, telemedicine and over 85,000 "apps" for the iPhone. It also brought us Twitter, You Tube, Hulu, Kindle, the Blackberry and the Palm. It has allowed the Internet to change our lives forever.

The wireless industry exploded over the past twenty years due to limited government regulation. Wireless carriers invested \$100 billion in infrastructure and development over the past three years which has led to faster networks, more competitors in the marketplace and lower prices compared to

any other country. Meanwhile, wired telephones and networks have become a slow dying breed as they are mired in state and Federal regulations, universal service contribution requirements and limitations on use.

It is for these reasons that today I introduce The Internet Freedom Act of 2009 that will keep the Internet free from government control and regulation. This will allow for continued innovation that will in turn create more high-paying jobs for the millions of Americans who are out of work or seeking new employment. Keeping businesses free from oppressive regulations is the best stimulus for the current economy.

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself and Mr. WEBB):

S. 1838. A bill to establish a commission to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate a defining moment in our Nation's history—the American Civil War. From 1861–1865, the U.S. was torn apart, engaged in the most deadly struggle that has ever befallen our great Nation. As we approach the War's 150th anniversary, we must remember the contributions of our forefathers, those many Americans who gave their lives to make America what it is now. Today I join my colleague, Senator WEBB, in introducing the Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission Act of 2009.

We all studied the Civil War in school. We know that the opening shots of the Civil War were fired at Fort Sumter, South Carolina in April of 1861 and that Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant agreed to peace at Appomattox Court House, Virginia on April 9, 1865. We recognize those most horrific battles—Antietam, Gettysburg, Fredericksburg, and the 10,000 other sites from New Mexico to Vermont that were host to fighting. We celebrate the strength and bravery of individuals such as Frederick Douglass and Harriett Tubman who risked everything to combat the deplorable institution of slavery. Every February, we observe President Lincoln's birthday, a day to recollect his legacy. The Emancipation Proclamation and Gettysburg address are two of the most memorable documents in American history, and it is thanks to President Lincoln that slavery was eradicated.

These are the most memorable aspects of the Civil War, but the influence and impact reaches so much further. I recently learned that on this very day, 148 years ago, work was underway on a revolutionary new technology—an innovation that would forever change the face of naval warfare. It was in October of 1861 that the keel of the USS Monitor was laid. For those who may not remember, the USS Monitor was the world's first ship to be entirely constructed from iron. It also

featured the first rotating gun turret, allowing it to fire in any direction regardless of which way the ship was facing. Naval history recognizes this as the beginning of the end for wooden warships and the need to strategically position ships because their artillery could only be fired in one direction. I recognize this as an example of American ingenuity.

This is just one additional example to show how the events of the American Civil War have reverberated through history. Every aspect of American life was affected whether economic, cultural, political, or otherwise. The most profound consequence of the Civil War was to end the legal edifice that justified the subjugation of people based on accidental characteristics such as race.

We must remember what our forefathers sacrificed for us. More than 3 million men fought in the Civil War. They left their homes and their loved ones to fight for their beliefs, their families, their Nation. 620,000 of those soldiers gave their lives.

We must remember the untold number of civilians who lost their lives or welfare because the battles were taking place all around them. No State, city, community, or family was untouched by devastation or loss.

We must remember the legacies of the Civil War. The U.S. emerged completely altered after the 4 years of struggle, and as a testament of American resilience, grew stronger than it was before. The cultural and political ramifications still shape the American landscape today. It was in the era of Reconstruction that Congress adopted the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments to the Constitution, acknowledging black Americans as free and equal citizens of the U.S.

The Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission Act of 2009 is about preserving the memory. It will establish a Commission to ensure suitable National observance. Consisting of 25 members from government, business and academia, this commission will develop and carry out programs to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. It will work together with State and local governments, as well as various organizations, to assist with these activities and ensure that remembrance occurs at every level.

Mr. President, 2011 marks the anniversary of a monumentally tragic time in American history, but also a time of intensive change, growth, and hope. We must use this opportunity to reflect upon the Civil War, the sacrifices, legacies, and changes in our Nation. I urge support of the Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission Act of 2009.

By Mr. SPECTER (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 1843. A bill to provide increased penalties for health care fraud; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition to speak about the

Strengthening Enforcement for Health Care Fraud Crimes Act of 2009, which I am introducing today with Senator GRAHAM.

At a time when Congress is poised to pass historic health care reform legislation to protect the health of Americans, it is imperative that we do all that we can to eliminate waste, fraud and abuse in America's health care systems. We must do all that we can to prevent, detect and vigorously prosecute health care fraud.

Health care fraud costs tax payers billions of dollars each year. National health care spending in the United States exceeded \$2.2 trillion and represented 16 percent of the Nation's Gross Domestic Product in 2007. The National Health Care Anti-Fraud Association, NHCAA, conservatively estimates that 3 percent of all health care spending—or more than \$60 billion—is lost to health care fraud perpetrated against both public and private health plans. Other estimates by government and law enforcement agencies suggest losses from fraud as high as 10 percent—or \$220 billion annually.

Fraud committed against both public and private plans by health care providers, medical equipment suppliers, drug companies, and also by fraudulent plan operators and brokers, undermines public trust in our health care system.

More importantly, the costs of health care fraud are borne by all Americans. It does not matter if you have health insurance sponsored by your employer, if you purchase privately your own insurance policy, or pay taxes to fund government health care programs. Health care fraud results in reduced benefits and coverage, and higher premiums and costs. It can mean higher taxes and increased budgetary challenges.

Health care fraud often targets the most vulnerable in our society—the elderly, the poor, and the infirm. Criminals involved in health care fraud falsify patients' medical records and steal patients' personal and insurance information to submit fraudulent claims. Health care fraud subjects patients to unnecessary and dangerous medical procedures. According to the FBI:

One of the most significant trends observed in recent health care fraud cases includes the willingness of medical professionals to risk patient harm in their schemes. FBI investigations in several offices are focusing on subjects who conduct unnecessary surgeries, prescribe dangerous drugs without medical necessity, and engage in abusive or sub-standard care practices.

FBI Financial Crimes Report to the Public, Fiscal year 2007.

Criminologists have long reported that criminals look at three factors in performing their own cost benefit analysis: the risk of getting caught; the probability of being convicted; and the severity of the punishment.

The bill I am introducing today addresses the third factor—and sends the message loud and clear to those who would contemplate committing health

care fraud. If caught stealing \$100,000 or more you will go to jail—no ifs, ands or buts. The bill provides a sentence of at least 6 months incarceration for committing health care fraud with losses of \$100,000 or more. You may even get more jail—under the discretionary guidelines—but no one will get less than 6 months for schemes of this size.

Since the Supreme Court decided *United States v. Booker* in January 2005 and made the Sentencing Guidelines advisory, sentencing judges have wide discretion to impose sentences on criminal defendants unless mandatory minimum sentences are applicable. Except for aggravated identity theft crimes, defendants do not face mandatory imprisonment for white collar crimes. Given the importance and necessity to vigorously prosecute and punish serious health care fraud crimes, I urge the Senate to pass this bill. Without it, there will be no certainty of punishment nor effective deterrence for serious health care fraud crimes.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. KERRY):

S. 1857. A bill to establish national centers of excellence for the treatment of depressive and bipolar disorders; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, today I introduced legislation to create a national strategy for treating two diseases that affect millions of Americans: depression and bipolar disorders. This bill, the Establishing a Network of Health-Advancing National Centers of Excellence for Depression, or the ENHANCED Act, will establish a network of national centers of excellence for the treatment of these disabling conditions. My bill would increase the number of people with depressive disorders who receive appropriate and evidence-based treatment; it would create a national resource to develop and disseminate evidence-based interventions, and provide public and professional education aimed at eradicating the stigma associated with depressive and bipolar disorders.

Depression and bipolar disorders affect one of every five people in the United States and are the leading cause of disability among individuals between the ages of 15 and 44. In fact, more Americans suffer from depression, bipolar illness and other mood disorders than from coronary heart disease and cancer combined.

Depression can affect anyone, at any age, at any time. It affects children, adolescents, and adults. It affects people of all racial, ethnic, religious, and socioeconomic levels as well as both sexes. Young adults, women of childbearing age, people with chronic medical conditions such as diabetes and heart disease, and adults over the age of 55 are at especially high risk of depression.

With medication, psychotherapy, or combined treatment, most people with depression and mood disorders can be effectively treated and resume productive lives. Yet one-third of those suffering from depression—nearly 5 million Americans—do not receive treatment because they cannot afford it, do not believe it is needed, are afraid of societal judgment, or do not know where to go.

My bill is based on work done informally by 16 academic research institutions across the nation. Led by my own State's University of Michigan Depression Center, these comprehensive research and treatment centers have joined together to create a network of depression centers positioned to take academic research and translate it into practice, standardize diagnoses, treat early and more effectively, and prevent recurrences of depression and bipolar disorders.

Currently, there is no direct federal support or coordination of this work. Clinicians lack universally accepted multi-disciplinary approaches and real-time clinical and care management guidelines. Nearly half of all diagnoses of depression and bipolar are missed. And tragically, one of the preventable costs of undiagnosed, untreated and undertreated depression is suicide. The World Health Organization recently reported that suicide causes more deaths around the world every year than homicide or war. Across all age groups nationwide, more than 90 percent of those who commit suicide have a diagnosable psychiatric illness at the time of death: usually depression, alcohol abuse or both. Clearly, we need better diagnostic approaches to depression in primary care, other medical settings, and mental health programs.

Finally, depression has a significant economic impact on society. The estimated total annual cost of depression in the U.S. is \$83.1 billion, with the majority of costs in the form of reduced productivity, absenteeism, and mortality.

The ENHANCED Act offers us a viable response to a devastating and often debilitating disease: it would create a national network with a pathway for developing and expanding up to 30 depression centers of excellence with a goal of increasing access to the most appropriate and evidence-based depression care; it would develop and disseminate evidence-based treatment standards, clinical guidelines, and protocols to improve accurate and timely diagnosis of depression and bipolar disorders; it would expand multidisciplinary, translational, and patient-oriented research by fostering the collaboration of academic and community-based organizations; and, it would establish a sustainable national resource for public and professional education and training.

We need to act now to make effective and evidence-based treatment of depressive and bipolar disorders available to the millions of Americans suffering from depression.

I urge my colleagues to join me today to support the ENHANCED Act.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that letters of support be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MENTAL HEALTH AMERICA,
Alexandria, VA, October 13, 2009.
Hon. DEBBIE STABENOW,
Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR STABENOW: On behalf of Mental Health America (MHA) and our national network of more than 300 affiliates across the United States, I wanted to express our strong support for your legislative proposal to establish national centers of excellence for the treatment of depressive and bipolar disorders.

Your proposal to create the national network of centers of excellence for depressive and bipolar disorders would enhance the coordination and integration of physical, mental and social care that are so critical to the identification and treatment of depression and other mental disorders across the lifespan. The work of these centers will be an essential component in the dissemination and implementation of evidence-based practices in clinical settings throughout the country.

The goals of this initiative would be to create improved clinical care guidelines, chronic care coordination, multi-disciplinary translational research, and public-private partnerships. Publicly available national databases would be developed and community resources would be leveraged. This initiative would also encourage the use of electronic health records and telehealth technologies to better coordinate, manage, and improve access to care.

These centers are especially critical at this time given the strong evidence that economic uncertainty and recession increase the rates of psychiatric symptoms and demand for services. Depression is associated with poorer health outcomes and higher health care costs. Rates of depression and suicide—already at a staggering level of nearly 33,000 persons a year (roughly twice the number of homicides)—tend to climb during times of economic tumult. Our nation must prioritize the integration and coordination of mental health with general health care.

As you know, the lack of adequate care coordination for individuals with mental illness makes this population particularly vulnerable. For example, persons with serious mental illness die, on average, 25 years earlier than the general population, mainly due to other co-occurring chronic conditions. This proposal is an important step in an effort to decrease these distressing mortality rates and improve the quality of life for individuals experiencing mental health conditions.

MHA applauds your work on this important legislative initiative and looks forward to working with you to achieve its enactment at the earliest possible date.

Sincerely,
DAVID L. SHERN, PH.D.,
President and CEO.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR
GERIATRIC PSYCHIATRY,
Bethesda, MD, October 6, 2009.
Hon. DEBBIE STABENOW,
U.S. Senate, Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR STABENOW: On behalf of the American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry (AAGP), I wanted to take this opportunity to express our strong support for your

legislative proposal to establish national centers of excellence for the treatment of depressive and bipolar disorders.

AAGP is a professional membership organization dedicated to promoting the mental health and well being of older Americans and improving the care of those with late-life mental disorders. AAGP's membership consists of approximately 2,000 geriatric psychiatrists as well as other health professionals who focus on the mental health problems faced by older adults.

Of the approximately 32 million Americans who have attained age 65, about five million suffer from depression, yet an astounding number go without treatment. Depression is associated with poorer health outcomes and higher health care costs. Those with depression are more likely to be hospitalized and experience almost twice the number of medical visits than those without depression. Older adults also have the highest rate of suicide in the country, accounting for approximately 20 percent of all suicide deaths, and the suicide rate for those 85 and older is nearly twice the national average.

The national network of centers of excellence for depressive disorders that would be created by your proposal would enhance the coordination and integration of physical, mental and social care that is so critical to the identification and treatment of depression and other mental disorders across the lifespan. The work of these centers will be an essential component in the dissemination and implementation of evidence-based practices in clinical settings throughout the country.

We applaud your work on this important legislative initiative and look forward to working with you to achieve its enactment at the earliest possible date.

Sincerely,

CHARLES F. REYNOLDS, III, MD,
President.

—
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
CHILD AND ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. SHERROD BROWN,
Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JOHN KERRY,
Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

Hon. KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON,
Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

Hon. DEBBIE STABENOW,
Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS BROWN, KERRY, HUTCHISON, AND STABENOW: On behalf of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP), I write to support the ENHANCED Act of 2009. The establishment of national centers of excellence for the treatment of depression and bipolar disorder is essential as we move forward with real healthcare reform.

As child and adolescent psychiatrists, our members are deeply invested in early identification of children with depressive disorders, as well as prevention strategies targeting children at risk. As many as 1 in 33 children and 1 in 8 teenagers in the United States have clinical depression. Suicide is the leading cause of death among those between the ages of 15 and 24.

While many adolescents are diagnosed with a depressive disorder, most go undetected and untreated. Lack of detection leads to social and academic decline, may foster treatment resistance in children, and result in many future problems.

The AACAP is a medical membership association established by child and adolescent psychiatrists in 1954. Now over 8,000 members

strong, the AACAP is the leading national medical association dedicated to treating and improving the quality of life for the estimated 14 million American youth under 18 years of age who are affected by emotional, behavioral, developmental and mental disorders.

On behalf of AACAP's members, I commend you for your continued leadership on this issue. We are pleased to support this bill and we look forward to working with you and your staff to ensure its passage. Please contact Kristin Kroeger, Director of Government Affairs, if you have any questions concerning children's mental health issues.

Sincerely,

ROBERT L. HENDREN,
President.

—
AMERICAN FOUNDATION
FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION,
New York, NY, October 21, 2009.

Hon. DEBBIE STABENOW,
U.S. Senate, Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR STABENOW: It is with great enthusiasm that we write to support the ENHANCED Act which would establish a national network of Centers of Excellence for the treatment of a full range of depressive disorders that afflict our population.

Although depressive disorders are the most common illnesses that lead to disability in our country, there has been little concerted national effort to acknowledge the problem and enhance the treatment. Besides disability, they cause enormous suffering, loss of productivity, difficulty with family, friends and colleagues and can be fatal. As you are aware, suicide is the 11th leading cause of death in this country. Ninety percent of those who die by suicide have a mental disorder and the most common mental disorder is depression. Most people have known someone who has died by suicide. While survivors often recognize that the person was in a great deal of pain and agony, they often do not understand that the person was suffering from a treatable disease. We believe that this legislation can lead to partnerships between organizations like ours and the Centers of Excellence with the goal of reducing suicide. This has been an unrealized national imperative since the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention was issued in 2001.

Given that there is evidence that depression is under-recognized and often inadequately treated, we believe that these Centers of Excellence would provide appropriate and evidence-based treatment. In so doing, they would provide families, the public and professionals with knowledge about these disorders and help to erase the stigma that exists about them.

Treating depression requires a great deal of skill in order to provide the best care to each individual. These Centers of Excellence will promote best practices and therefore become national resources for the 35,000,000 people affected with depressive illnesses.

Given the recent well-documented increase in suicides in the military and returning veterans, it is clear that the country needs an all-out commitment to the education and treatment of these disorders. Thank you again for your work on this bill and please let us know how we can ensure that it becomes law, so that millions of Americans suffering from depressive disorders can recover and live healthy and productive lives.

Sincerely,

ROBERT GEBBIA,
Executive Director.
PAULA J. CLAYTON,
Medical Director.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. KOHL, and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 1859. A bill to reinstate Federal matching of State spending of child support incentive payments; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, today, I introduce the Child Support Protection Act of 2009; with my colleagues Senators CORNYN, KOHL, and SNOWE. This bill continues the long-standing, bipartisan support of Congress for the Child Support Enforcement program, which began with the passage of the authorizing legislation in 1974.

Child support enforcement is a strong partnership between the Federal Government and State governments to help parents provide long term support for their children. It includes a network of 60,000 dedicated staff serving 17 million children across this country.

In 2008, paternity was established for 1.8 million children ensuring that the legal rights of both the children and their fathers were protected; 1.2 million orders for support were also established, resulting in \$26.6 billion of child support being collected and distributed to families. This is an important investment in the future of our Nation, our children.

So, the Child Support Enforcement program's results are impressive and it is widely recognized as one of the most effective programs operated by the Federal Government. In fact, the program is notable for collecting \$4.79 for each dollar of expenditure. It is a true bargain that works well.

Child support collections account for 31 percent of the income of single parent households, but the program does so much more. It works with non-custodial parents who need employment so that they can make regular payments. Child support staff also play a critical role in times of high joblessness, by processing adjustments to support orders so that non-custodial parents do not fall hopelessly behind.

When Congress passed the Child Support Performance and Incentive Act of 1998, CSPIA, it created an innovative incentive program that rewards efficient, results-oriented child support enforcement efforts. These earned performance incentives must be used for child support activities. One of every \$4 from State expenditures to fund the child support program comes from CSPIA incentives and matched Federal funds. The Deficit Reduction Act, DRA, of 2005 repealed the authority to use the earned performance incentives as a match for Federal funds. The bill we have introduced today reverses the funding reduction imposed by the DRA.

States are using the incentives in a variety of ways. In my State of West Virginia, the incentive dollars are being used to invest in technology to upgrade services and enhance customer service. Thirty States or territories are investing in staff and program operations. Sixteen States are investing in

technology, and three others are investing in customer service programs.

The Child Support Protection Act would give States the authority to use earned performance incentives to fund this important work and continue the impressive results that are being achieved. This permanent reversal is critical so that those in State and local government can budget for 2011 and beyond. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to cosponsor this much needed legislation that is not only important to child support enforcement, but our children, their families, and the States.

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise with my colleagues, Senators ROCKEFELLER, CORNYN and SNOWE, in support of the Child Support Protection Act. Our bipartisan group has joined together in a fight for our states, counties and the people we serve every day. The legislation we are introducing today represents a renewed effort in that fight, as we work to restore cuts to the child support enforcement program.

This fight began in 2005 during Senate debate of the Deficit Reduction Act, or the DRA. That bill included cuts to the child support enforcement program—one of the most effective federal programs and one that directly benefits hardworking, single parent families. During consideration of the DRA, I joined 75 other Senators in support of a resolution rejecting child support funding cuts. But conferees ignored the Senate's record, including a provision to prevent states from receiving Federal matching funds on incentive payments.

Before passage of the Deficit Reduction Act, states with high-performing child support enforcement programs were eligible for additional funding. With the limitation included in the final bill, however, States like Wisconsin were suddenly penalized for their hard work and success. These states saw their child support dollars disappear—and were faced with tough budgeting decisions at both the state and county levels. Within a year, child support offices in my State were forced to lay off workers and many were left with no option but to scale back services.

Congress took a step towards fixing the problem as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The Recovery bill temporarily restored the funding process that was in place before the Deficit Reduction Act, and allowed States—for fiscal years 2009 and 2010—to draw down much needed Federal matching funds. In Wisconsin, the need was so great that some offices used that funding to hire temporary staff—to clear case backlogs and assist the constituents who have been hurt by the funding cuts.

This is a short term solution—to a problem that Congress created. It is time to fix that problem. The economy has left families struggling, and child support is a lifeline for many of them. It is time to give States and counties the ability to budget beyond the com-

ing year. It is time to help the thousands of families who rely on child support payments to stay out of poverty and off public assistance. It is time for my colleagues to join me in supporting, and to pass, the Child Support Enforcement Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 320—DESIGNATING MAY 1 EACH YEAR AS “SILVER STAR BANNER DAY”

Mr. BOND (for himself and Mrs. McCASKILL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 320

Whereas the Senate has always honored the sacrifices made by the wounded and ill members of the Armed Forces,

Whereas the Silver Star Service Banner has come to represent the members of the Armed Forces and veterans who were wounded or became ill in combat in the wars fought by the United States;

Whereas the Silver Star Families of America was formed to help the American people remember the sacrifices made by the wounded and ill members of the Armed Forces by designing and manufacturing Silver Star Service Banners and Flags for that purpose;

Whereas the sole mission of the Silver Star Families of America is to evoke memories of the sacrifices of members and veterans of the Armed Forces on behalf of the United States through the presence of a Silver Star Service Banner in a window or a Silver Star Flag flying; and

Whereas the sacrifices of members and veterans of the Armed Forces on behalf of the United States should never be forgotten: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation designating May 1 each year as “Silver Star Service Banner Day” and to call upon the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2698. Mr. FEINGOLD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3548, to amend the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 to provide for the temporary availability of certain additional emergency unemployment compensation, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2699. Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. DODD) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3548, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2698. Mr. FEINGOLD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3548, to amend the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 to provide for the temporary availability of certain additional emergency unemployment compensation, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. ELIMINATION OF AUTOMATIC PAY ADJUSTMENTS FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section 601(a) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 31) is repealed.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 601(a)(1) of such Act is amended—

(1) by striking “(a)(1)” and inserting “(a)”;
(2) by redesignating subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) as paragraphs (1), (2), and (3), respectively; and

(3) by striking “as adjusted by paragraph (2) of this subsection” and inserting “adjusted as provided by law”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect on December 31, 2010.

SA 2699. Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. DODD) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3548, to amend the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 to provide for the temporary availability of certain additional emergency unemployment compensation, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, insert the following:

SEC. _____. CREDIT FOR CERTAIN HOME PURCHASES.

(a) ELIMINATION OF FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYER REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 36 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “who is a first-time homebuyer of a principal residence” and inserting “who purchases a principal residence”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Subsection (c) of section 36 of such Code is amended by striking paragraph (1) and by redesignating paragraphs (2), (3), (4), and (5) as paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4), respectively.

(B) Section 36 of such Code is amended by striking “**FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYER CREDIT**” in the heading and inserting “**HOME PURCHASE CREDIT**”.

(C) The table of sections for subpart C of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of such Code is amended by striking the item relating to section 36 and inserting the following new item:

“Sec. 36. Home purchase credit.”.

(D) Subparagraph (W) of section 26(b)(2) of such Code is amended by striking “homebuyer credit” and inserting “home purchase credit”.

(b) EXPANSION OF APPLICATION PERIOD.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (h) of section 36 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “December 1, 2009” and inserting “July 1, 2010”.

(2) WAIVER OF RECAPTURE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (D) of section 36(f) of such Code is amended by striking “December 1, 2009” and inserting “July 1, 2010”.

(B) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The heading of such subparagraph (D) is amended by inserting “AND 2010” after “2009”.

(3) ELECTION TO TREAT PURCHASE IN PRIOR YEAR.—Subsection (g) of section 36 of such Code is amended—

(A) by striking “December 1, 2009” and inserting “January 1, 2010”, and

(B) by adding at the end the following: “In the case of a purchase of a principal residence after December 31, 2009, and before July 1, 2010, a taxpayer may elect to treat such purchase as made on December 31, 2009, for purposes of this section (other than subsections (c) and (f)(4)(D)).”.