

while performing official duties or as a result of the performance of official duties; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LEMIEUX:

S.J. Res. 22. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to requiring a balanced budget and granting the President of the United States the power of line-item veto; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 418

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 418, a bill to require secondary metal recycling agents to keep records of their transactions in order to deter individuals and enterprises engaged in the theft and interstate sale of stolen secondary metal, and for other purposes.

S. 471

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 471, a bill to amend the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 to require the Statistics Commissioner to collect information from coeducational secondary schools on such schools' athletic programs, and for other purposes.

S. 571

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 571, a bill to strengthen the Nation's research efforts to identify the causes and cure of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis, expand psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis data collection, and study access to and quality of care for people with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis, and for other purposes.

S. 583

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 583, a bill to provide grants and loan guarantees for the development and construction of science parks to promote the clustering of innovation through high technology activities.

S. 619

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 619, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to preserve the effectiveness of medically important antibiotics used in the treatment of human and animal diseases.

S. 765

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 765, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the Secretary of the Treasury to not impose a penalty for failure to disclose reportable transactions when there is reasonable cause for such failure, to modify such penalty, and for other purposes.

S. 941

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 941, a bill to reform the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, modernize firearm laws and regulations, protect the community from criminals, and for other purposes.

S. 1067

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1067, a bill to support stabilization and lasting peace in northern Uganda and areas affected by the Lord's Resistance Army through development of a regional strategy to support multilateral efforts to successfully protect civilians and eliminate the threat posed by the Lord's Resistance Army and to authorize funds for humanitarian relief and reconstruction, reconciliation, and transitional justice, and for other purposes.

S. 1121

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1121, a bill to amend part D of title V of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide grants for the repair, renovation, and construction of elementary and secondary schools, including early learning facilities at the elementary schools.

S. 1389

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1389, a bill to clarify the exemption for certain annuity contracts and insurance policies from Federal regulation under the Securities Act of 1933.

S. 1535

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1535, a bill to amend the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 to establish additional prohibitions on shooting wildlife from aircraft, and for other purposes.

S. 1611

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1611, a bill to provide collective bargaining rights for public safety officers employed by States or their political subdivisions.

S. 1749

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1749, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the possession or use of cell phones and similar wireless devices by Federal prisoners.

S. 2729

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2729, a bill to reduce greenhouse gas

emissions from uncapped domestic sources, and for other purposes.

S. 2760

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2760, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for an increase in the annual amount authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out comprehensive service programs for homeless veterans.

S. 2781

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2781, a bill to change references in Federal law to mental retardation to references to an intellectual disability, and to change references to a mentally retarded individual to references to an individual with an intellectual disability.

S. 2812

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2812, a bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require the Secretary of Energy to carry out programs to develop and demonstrate 2 small modular nuclear reactor designs, and for other purposes.

S. 2847

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2847, a bill to regulate the volume of audio on commercials.

S. 2853

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2853, a bill to establish a Bipartisan Task Force for Responsible Fiscal Action, to assure the long-term fiscal stability and economic security of the Federal Government of the United States, and to expand future prosperity growth for all Americans.

S. 2869

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 2869, a bill to increase loan limits for small business concerns, to provide for low interest refinancing for small business concerns, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 316

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 316, a resolution calling upon the President to ensure that the foreign policy of the United States reflects appropriate understanding and sensitivity concerning issues related to human rights, ethnic cleansing, and genocide documented in the United States record relating to the Armenian Genocide, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2790

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2790 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2804

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNIS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2804 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2827

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2827 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2878

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2878 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2903

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2903 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2909

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2909 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2947

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2947 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time home-

buyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3037

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3037 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3119

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3119 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3136

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3136 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3156

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3156 proposed to H.R. 3590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3203

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KIRK) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3203 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. KIRK):

S. 2882. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules relating to the treatment of indi-

viduals as independent contractors or employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Taxpayer Responsibility, Accountability and Consistency Act of 2009 which will provide a level playing field to America's workers to ensure they are afforded protections already in the law, such as workers' compensation, Social Security, Medicare, payment of overtime, unemployment compensation, and the minimum wage. This legislation is cosponsored by Senators DURBIN, HARKIN, SCHUMER, BROWN, MENENDEZ, and KIRK.

Under current law, employers are required to take certain actions on behalf of their employees including withholding income taxes, paying Social Security and Medicare taxes, paying for unemployment insurance, and providing a safe and nondiscriminatory workplace. Employers are not required to undertake these obligations for independent contractors. When workers are misclassified, businesses that play by the rules lose business to competitors that do not play by the rules and workers lose valuable rights and protections.

The Internal Revenue Service, IRS, currently uses a common law test to determine whether a worker is an employee or independent contractor. Unfortunately, a loophole exists which allows a business to escape liability for misclassifying employees as independent contractors. Furthermore, there is statutory prohibition on the IRS providing guidance through regulation on employee classification.

Federal and State revenue is lost when businesses misclassify their workers as independent contractors. A study estimated that, between 1996 and 2004, \$34.7 billion of Federal tax revenues went uncollected due to the misclassification of workers and the tax loopholes that allow it. Recent GAO and Treasury Inspector General reports have cited misclassification as posing significant concerns for workers, their employers, and government revenue.

A study commissioned by the U.S. Department of Labor in 2000 found that up to 30 percent of firms misclassify their employees as independent contractors. State studies also show that misclassification is on the rise. In Massachusetts, the rate of misclassification has grown from 8.4 percent in 1995 through 1997 to a rate of 13.4 percent in 2001 through 2003.

Misclassification is more rampant than studies indicate. Studies cannot adequately capture the "underground economy," where workers are paid off the books, often in cash. Unreported cash is one aspect of this problem and it is difficult for the IRS to discover because employers have no record of pay.

States have been leading the way in documenting and recovering taxes related to the misclassification of workers. In the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Governor Deval Patrick has