

sustainable biofuels production and energy alternatives, research, and infrastructure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 588. A bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to establish requirements to ensure the security and safety of passengers and crew on cruise vessels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 589. A bill to establish a Global Service Fellowship Program and to authorize Volunteers for Prosperity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. PRYOR):

S. 590. A bill to assist local communities with closed and active military bases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

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

S. 591. A bill to establish a National Commission on High-Level Radioactive Waste and Spent Nuclear Fuel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FEINGOLD, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 592. A bill to implement the recommendations of the Federal Communications Commission report to the Congress regarding low-power FM service; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 593. A bill to ban the use of bisphenol A in food containers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 594. A bill to require a report on invasive agricultural pests and diseases and sanitary and phytosanitary barriers to trade before initiating negotiations to enter into a free trade agreement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. LUGAR:

S. Res. 74. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on the importance of strengthening bilateral relations in general, and investment relations specifically, between the United States and Brazil; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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

S. Res. 75. A resolution commemorating the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Philadelphia Zoo: America's First Zoo; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 49

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. KAUFMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 49, a bill to help Federal prosecutors and investigators combat public corruption by strengthening and clarifying the law.

S. 211

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) 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 and volunteer services, and for other purposes.

S. 262

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 262, a bill to improve and enhance the operations of the reserve components of the Armed Forces, to improve mobilization and demobilization processes for members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 277

At the request of Mr. BROWN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 277, a bill to amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to expand and improve opportunities for service, and for other purposes.

S. 310

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 310, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to ensure that safety net family planning centers are eligible for assistance under the drug discount program.

S. 379

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 379, a bill to provide fair compensation to artists for use of their sound recordings.

S. 416

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 416, a bill to limit the use of cluster munitions.

S. 428

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 428, a bill to allow travel between the United States and Cuba.

S. 473

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 473, a bill to establish the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation.

S. 475

At the request of Mr. BURR, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 475, a bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to guarantee the equity of spouses of military personnel with regard to matters of residency, and for other purposes.

S. 482

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from California

(Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 482, a bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

S. 484

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 484, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 535

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) were added as cosponsors of S. 535, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 541

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 541, a bill to increase the borrowing authority of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and for other purposes.

S. 546

At the request of Mr. REID, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 546, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service of Combat-Related Special Compensation.

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 546, supra.

S. 561

At the request of Mr. THUNE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 561, a bill to authorize a supplemental funding source for catastrophic emergency wildland fire suppression activities on Department of the Interior and National Forest System lands, to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a cohesive wildland fire management strategy, and for other purposes.

S. 564

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 564, a bill to establish commissions to review the facts and circumstances surrounding injustices suffered by European Americans, European Latin Americans, and Jewish refugees during World War II.

S. 567

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 567, a bill to repeal the sunset on the reduction of capital gains rates for individuals and on the taxation of dividends of individuals at capital gains rates.

S. 570

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 570, a bill to stimulate the economy and create jobs at no cost to the taxpayers, and without borrowing money from foreign governments for which our children and grandchildren will be responsible, and for other purposes.

S. 571

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) 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. RES. 66

At the request of Mr. BOND, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 66, a resolution designating 2009 as the "Year of the Noncommissioned Officer Corps of the United States Army".

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 577. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide penalties for individuals who engage in schemes to defraud aliens and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Immigration Fraud Prevention Act of 2009, on behalf of myself and Senator KENNEDY, to prevent the exploitation of people, citizens, and non-citizens alike, who are preyed on when seeking immigration assistance.

The Immigration Fraud Prevention Act would prevent and punish fraud and misrepresentation in the context of immigration proceedings. The act would create a new Federal crime to penalize those who engage in schemes to defraud aliens in connection with Federal immigration laws.

Specifically, the act would make it a Federal crime to wilfully and knowingly defraud or obtain or receive money or anything else of value from any person by false or fraudulent pretences, representations, or promises; and to wilfully, knowingly, and falsely

represent that an individual is an attorney or accredited representative in any matter arising under Federal immigration law.

Violations of these crimes would result in a fine, imprisonment of not more than 5 years, or both.

The bill would also authorize the Attorney General and the Secretary of Homeland Security to use task forces currently in existence to detect and investigate individuals who are in violation of the immigration fraud crimes as created by the bill.

The act would also work to prevent immigration fraud by requiring that Immigration Judges issue warnings about unauthorized practice of immigration law to immigrants in removal proceedings, similar to the current law that requires notification of pro bono legal services to these immigrants; requiring the Attorney General to provide outreach to the immigrant community to help prevent fraud; providing that any materials used to carry out notification on immigration law fraud is done in the appropriate language for that community; and requiring the distribution of the disciplinary list of individuals not authorized to appear before the immigration courts and the Board of Immigration Appeals, BIA, currently maintained by the Executive Office of Immigration Review, EOIR.

Unfortunately, the need for Federal action to prevent and prosecute immigration fraud has escalated in recent years as citizens and non-citizens attempt to navigate the immigration legal system. Thus far, only States have sought to regulate the unauthorized practice of immigration law.

Since immigration law is a federal matter, I believe the solution to such misrepresentation and fraud should be addressed by Congress.

By enacting this bill, Congress would help prevent more victims like Vincent Smith, a Mexican national who has resided in California since 1975. His wife is an American citizen, and they live with their 6 U.S. citizen children in Palmdale, CA.

Mr. Smith would likely have received a green card at least two different times during his stay in California. However, in attempting to get legal counsel, Mr. Smith hired someone whom he thought was an attorney, but was not. As a result, Mr. Smith was charged more than \$10,000 for processing his immigration paperwork, which was never filed. Mr. Smith now has no legal status and faces removal proceedings.

Another victim of immigration fraud is Raul, a Mexican national, who came to the United States in 2000. He also married a U.S. citizen, Loraina, making him eligible to apply for a green card. Raul and his wife went to Jose for legal help. Jose's business card said he had a "law office" and that he was an "immigration specialist." But Jose was not a specialist and charged Raul \$4,000 to file a frivolous asylum petition.

While Raul thought he was going to receive a green card, he was instead placed into removal proceedings.

From California to New York, there are hundreds of stories like these. Many immigrants are preyed on because of their fears—others on their hope of realizing the American dream. They are charged exorbitant fees for the filing of frivolous paperwork that clog our immigration courts and keep families and businesses waiting in limbo for years.

Law enforcement officials say that many fraudulent "immigration specialists" close their businesses or move on to another part of the state or country before they can be held accountable. They can make \$100,000 to \$200,000 a year and the few who have been caught rarely serve more than a few months in jail. Often victims of such crimes are deported, sending them back to their home countries without accountability for the perpetrator of the fraud.

Most recently, hundreds of immigrants were exploited by Victor M. Espinal, who was arrested for allegedly posing as an immigration attorney. Nearly 125 of Mr. Espinal's clients attended the New York City Bar Association's free clinic to address their legal and immigration options. According to prosecutors, Mr. Espinal falsely claimed on his business cards that he was licensed and admitted to the California bar as well as the bar in the Dominican Republic.

Organizations such as the Los Angeles Country Bar Association, National Immigration Forum, American Immigration Lawyers Association, and American Bar Association have been documenting this exploitation for many years. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me and Senator KENNEDY in putting an end to it.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be placed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 577

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Immigration Fraud Prevention Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. SCHEMES TO DEFAUD ALIENS.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 18.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 47 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"§ 1041. Schemes to defraud aliens

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Any person who willfully and knowingly executes a scheme or artifice, in connection with any matter that is authorized by or arises under Federal immigration laws or any matter the offender willfully and knowingly claims or represents is authorized by or arises under Federal immigration laws, to—

"(1) defraud any person; or

"(2) obtain or receive money or anything else of value from any person by means of false or fraudulent pretenses, representations, promises, shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.