

the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 685. A bill to require new vessels for carrying oil fuel to have double hulls, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. MIKULSKI:

S. 686. A bill to establish the Social Work Reinvestment Commission to advise Congress and the Secretary of Health and Human Services on policy issues associated with the profession of social work, to authorize the Secretary to make grants to support recruitment for, and retention, research, and reinvestment in, the profession, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Ms. STABENOW, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 687. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit direct payment under the Medicare program for clinical social worker services provided to residents of skilled nursing facilities; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. HARKIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. DURBIN, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 688. A bill to require that health plans provide coverage for a minimum hospital stay for mastectomies, lumpectomies, and lymph node dissection for the treatment of breast cancer and coverage for secondary consultations; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

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

S. Res. 83. A resolution designating March 25, 2009, as "National Cerebral Palsy Awareness Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. Res. 84. A resolution urging the Government of Canada to end the commercial seal hunt; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 26

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 26, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reset the income threshold used to calculate the refundable portion of the child tax credit and to repeal the sunset for certain prior modifications made to the credit.

S. 144

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 144, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove cell phones from listed property under section 280F.

S. 211

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr.

HARKIN) 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. 263

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 263, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the enforcement of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994, and for other purposes.

S. 277

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) 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. 424

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 424, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate discrimination in the immigration laws by permitting permanent partners of United States citizens and lawful permanent residents to obtain lawful permanent resident status in the same manner as spouses of citizens and lawful permanent residents and to penalize immigration fraud in connection with permanent partnerships.

S. 456

At the request of Mr. DODD, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 456, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, to develop guidelines to be used on a voluntary basis to develop plans to manage the risk of food allergy and anaphylaxis in schools and early childhood education programs, to establish school-based food allergy management grants, and for other purposes.

S. 461

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) were added as cosponsors of S. 461, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 473

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

S. 482

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 482, a bill to require Sen-

ate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

S. 483

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 483, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of Mark Twain.

S. 495

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 495, a bill to increase public confidence in the justice system and address any unwarranted racial and ethnic disparities in the criminal process.

S. 540

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 540, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to liability under State and local requirements respecting devices.

S. 541

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNES) 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. 582

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 582, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to protect consumers from usury, and for other purposes.

S. 614

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 614, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Women Airforce Service Pilots ("WASP").

S. 662

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 662, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for reimbursement of certified midwife services and to provide for more equitable reimbursement rates for certified nurse-midwife services.

S. CON. RES. 12

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 12, a concurrent resolution recognizing and honoring the signing by President Abraham Lincoln of the legislation authorizing the establishment of collegiate programs at Galaudet University.

S. RES. 37

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 37, a resolution calling on

Brazil to comply with the requirements of the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction and to assist in the safe return of Sean Goldman to his father, David Goldman.

S. RES. 82

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 82, a resolution recognizing the 188th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating Greek and American democracy.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. 673. A bill to allow certain newspapers to be treated as described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, Thomas Jefferson, a man who was vilified by newspapers daily, once said "If I had to choose between government without newspapers, and newspapers without government, I wouldn't hesitate to choose the latter." Like Jefferson, I believe that a well-informed public is a core foundation of our democracy. Watergate. AIDS. Tobacco. ENRON. AIG. News stories, uncovered by journalists, bring the most important stories of our nation's history to the front page, and thus into public debate.

I rise today to introduce the Newspaper Revitalization Act, to help our disappearing community and metropolitan papers by allowing them to become non-profit organizations. Newspapers across the country are closing their doors, slashing their staff, and shuttering bureaus in the United States and around the world. The Philadelphia Inquirer, The Seattle Post-Intelligencer, The Rocky Mountain News, the Philadelphia Daily News, the San Francisco Chronicle, and my own Baltimore Sun are either in bankruptcy, or facing bankruptcy and closure. The Los Angeles Times has reduced its newsroom by one-half, the Miami Herald and twenty-eight other dailies have laid off at least one-quarter of their workforces in the past year. At the largest daily newspaper in New Jersey, The Star-Ledger, 45 percent of the editorial staff took buyouts when the owner threatened to sell the newspaper. Increasing numbers of metropolitan regions may soon have no local daily newspapers.

The economy has caused an immediate problem, but the business model for newspapers, based on circulation and advertising revenue, has been weakening for years. At the end of 2008, advertising revenue was down by about 25 percent and according to a December forecast by Barclays Capital, advertising revenue will drop another 17 percent in 2009. Circulation is also down because of the many other sources for news. Today we have the internet, tele-

vision, radio and blogs around the clock. Now, some might say these are all reasons why we may not need daily print newspapers anymore. But they are wrong.

While Americans have quick access to the news, there remains one clear fact, when it comes to original in-depth reporting that records and exposes actions, issues, and opportunities in our communities, nothing has replaced a newspaper. Most, if not all sources of journalistic information, from Google to broadcast news or punditry, gain their original news from the laborious and expensive work of experienced newspaper reporters diligently working their beats over the course of years, not hours. According to the Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism, a typical metropolitan paper ran 70 stories a day, counting the national, local and business sections, whereas a half-hour of television news included only ten to twelve. Research further shows that broadcast news follows the agenda set by newspapers, often repeating the same items with less detail. Newspaper reporters forge relationships with people; they build a network, which creates avenues to information.

These relationships and the information that follows are essential in a free, democratic society. Without it, accountability is lost. In a 2003 study published in the Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization, the relationship between corruption and "free circulation of daily newspapers per person" was examined. The study found that the lower the circulation of newspapers in a country, the higher it stands on the corruption index. In another study, published in 2006, it is suggested that the growth of a more information-oriented press may have been a factor in reducing government corruption in the United States between the Gilded Age and the Progressive Era. Newspapers provide a form of accountability. They provide a "check" on local governments, State governments, the Federal Government, elected officials, corporations, school districts, businesses, individuals and more. We need to save community newspapers.

The Newspaper Revitalization Act provides help. It will allow newspapers to operate as non-profit organizations, if they choose, under 501(c)(3) status for educational purposes, much like public broadcasting. These newspapers would not be allowed to make political endorsements, but would be allowed to freely report on all issues, including political races. Advertising and subscription revenue would be tax exempt and contributions to support coverage or operations could be tax deductible.

While this may not be an optimal choice for some major newspapers or corporate media chains interested in profit, it should be an option for many local newspapers fast disappearing in our States, cities and towns. This option should cause minimal revenue loss to the Federal Government as most

newspaper profits have been falling for years. In this economic climate, and with the real possibility of losing community newspapers, this would be a voluntary option for owners to save their paper. It is also a model that could enable local citizens or foundations to step in and preserve their local papers. I want to urge my colleagues to support this legislation and take action to save newspapers.

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 printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 673

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

SECTION 1. TREATMENT OF CERTAIN NEWSPAPERS AS EXEMPT FROM TAX UNDER SECTION 501.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (3) of section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting "(including a qualified newspaper corporation)" after "educational purposes".

(b) QUALIFIED NEWSPAPER CORPORATION.—Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (r) as subsection (s), and

(2) by inserting after subsection (q) the following new subsection:

"(r) QUALIFIED NEWSPAPER CORPORATION.—For purposes of this title, a corporation or organization shall be treated as a qualified newspaper corporation if—

"(1) the trade or business of such corporation or organization consists of publishing on a regular basis a newspaper for general circulation,

"(2) the newspaper published by such corporation or organization contains local, national, and international news stories of interest to the general public and the distribution of such newspaper is necessary or valuable in achieving an educational purpose, and

"(3) the preparation of the material contained in such newspaper follows methods generally accepted as educational in character."

(c) UNRELATED BUSINESS INCOME OF A QUALIFIED NEWSPAPER CORPORATION.—Section 513 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(k) ADVERTISING INCOME OF QUALIFIED NEWSPAPER CORPORATIONS.—The term 'unrelated trade or business' does not include the sale by a qualified newspaper corporation (as defined in section 501(r)) of any space for commercial advertisement to be published in a newspaper, to the extent that the space allotted to all such advertisements in such newspaper does not exceed the space allotted to fulfilling the educational purpose of such qualified newspaper corporation."

(d) DEDUCTION FOR CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS.—Subparagraph (B) of section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting "(including a qualified newspaper corporation as defined in section 501(r))" after "educational purposes".

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

By Mr. AKAKA:

S. 674. A bill to amend chapter 41 of title 5, United States Code, to provide