

By Mr. BENNET:

S. 1009. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a Care Transitions Program in order to improve quality and cost-effectiveness of care for Medicare beneficiaries; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. DODD, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 1010. A bill to establish a National Foreign Language Coordinator Council; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself and Mr. INOUE):

S. 1011. A bill to express the policy of the United States regarding the United States relationship with Native Hawaiians and to provide a process for the recognition by the United States of the Native Hawaiian governing entity; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. REID (for Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mr. BYRD, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. LEVIN)):

S. 1012. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of Mother's Day; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BAYH, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 1013. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Energy to carry out a program to demonstrate the commercial application of integrated systems for long-term geological storage of carbon dioxide, 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. KERRY (for himself and Mr. LUGAR):

S. Res. 136. A bill expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States should initiate negotiations to enter into a free trade agreement with the country of Georgia; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. BURR, Mr. CORKER, and Mrs. HAGAN):

S. Res. 137. A resolution recognizing and commending the people of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park on the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the park; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BEGICH, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. TESTER, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. DODD, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. Res. 138. A resolution honoring Concerns of Police Survivors for 25 years of service to family members of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 144

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) 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. 245

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr.

WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 245, a bill to expand, train, and support all sectors of the health care workforce to care for the growing population of older individuals in the United States.

S. 327

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. KAUFMAN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 327, a bill to amend the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 and the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to improve assistance to domestic and sexual violence victims and provide for technical corrections.

S. 345

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 345, a bill to reauthorize the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 through fiscal year 2012, to rename the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 as the "Tropical Forest and Coral Conservation Act of 2009", and for other purposes.

S. 440

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 440, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an above-the-line deduction for attorney fees and costs in connection with civil claim awards.

S. 454

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 454, a bill to improve the organization and procedures of the Department of Defense for the acquisition of major weapon systems, and for other purposes.

S. 476

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 476, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to reduce the minimum distance of travel necessary for reimbursement of covered beneficiaries of the military health care system for travel for specialty health care.

S. 525

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 525, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the importation of prescription drugs, and for other purposes.

S. 611

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 611, a bill to provide for the reduction of adolescent pregnancy, HIV rates, and other sexually transmitted diseases, and for other purposes.

S. 614

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the names of the Senator from Delaware

(Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 614, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Women Airforce Service Pilots ("WASP").

S. 645

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 645, a bill to amend title 32, United States Code, to modify the Department of Defense share of expenses under the National Guard Youth Challenge Program.

S. 671

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 671, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under part B of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 683

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. KAUFMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 683, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide individuals with disabilities and older Americans with equal access to community-based attendant services and supports, and for other purposes.

S. 701

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. BURRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 701, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access of Medicare beneficiaries to intravenous immune globulins (IVIG).

S. 749

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 749, a bill to improve and expand geographic literacy among kindergarten through grade 12 students in the United States by improving professional development programs for kindergarten through grade 12 teachers offered through institutions of higher education.

S. 775

At the request of Mr. VOINOVICH, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 775, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize the availability of appropriated funds for international partnership contact activities conducted by the National Guard, and for other purposes.

S. 883

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 883, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in

recognition and celebration of the establishment of the Medal of Honor in 1861, America's highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Services of the United States, to honor the American military men and women who have been recipients of the Medal of Honor, and to promote awareness of what the Medal of Honor represents and how ordinary Americans, through courage, sacrifice, selfless service and patriotism, can challenge fate and change the course of history.

S. 967

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 967, a bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to create a petroleum product reserve, and for other purposes.

S. 969

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 969, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to ensure fairness in the coverage of women in the individual health insurance market.

S. 981

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 981, a bill to support research and public awareness activities with respect to inflammatory bowel disease, and for other purposes.

S. 982

At the request of Mr. TESTER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 982, a bill to protect the public health by providing the Food and Drug Administration with certain authority to regulate tobacco products.

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 982, *supra*.

S. 987

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 987, a bill to protect girls in developing countries through the prevention of child marriage, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 15

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 15, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

S. RES. 122

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, his name was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. Res. 122, a resolution designating April 30, 2009, as "Día de los Niños: Celebrating Young Americans", and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 122, *supra*.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. LINCOLN (for herself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 997. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide income tax relief for families, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I rise to highlight the greatest resource of Arkansas. It is our people. It is the working families and the small businesses in their valiant fight against the current economic crisis.

It is more important than ever before to give working families and businesses the tools they need to succeed in this world, to be competitive in the global marketplace and, more importantly, to be able to be successful on their own land. Hard work and entrepreneurship have fueled the Arkansas small business economy for decades, and we must ensure it remains that way in the future.

That is why I have designed a package of tax cuts and Tax Code simplification measures that I call the Arkansas Plan, to help move our State and hard-working families forward. Together, these tax measures will allow working families and small businesses to get ahead and emerge from this economic crisis stronger and more competitive than ever before. These measures will encourage innovation and entrepreneurship, create new jobs, and lessen our dependence on foreign oil; as well as reduce the burden on working families and small businesses by simplifying our ever-complicated Tax Code.

This week, I am focused on measures that will allow working families and small businesses to emerge from the economic crisis stronger and more competitive. I have reintroduced the Small Business Health Options Program, which would make health insurance more affordable, predictable, and accessible for small businesses and self-employed individuals. Our SHOP bill offers tax incentives to encourage States to reform the poorly functioning small group insurance market and encourages the development of State purchasing pools backstopped by a voluntary nationwide pool.

The majority of uninsured Americans are self-employed individuals and employees of small businesses. Small businesses are the No. 1 source for jobs in our great State of Arkansas. Yet only 29 percent of businesses with fewer than 50 employees offer health insurance coverage because it is simply too expensive. Of the total uninsured population of Arkansas—more than 56 percent—approximately 295,000 Arkansans are employed by a firm with 100 or fewer employees.

Our SHOP bill is a pragmatic model for larger health reform legislation that allows us to begin to address the needs of the millions of working uninsured Americans whose top priority is access to quality and affordable health

care for their families. What we are looking for is to be able to give small businesses, their employees, and self-employed individuals the access to the same kind of quality and affordable health insurance we enjoy as Members of Congress.

I think it is very doable. I am looking forward to continuing my work with Senator SNOWE and others on a plan we have worked on for years now. Whether it is done independently or in the context of a larger health care reform package, it is time to do something for small businesses, their employees, and the self-employed because they are the largest component of the uninsured that we could really do something substantively for.

Another piece of my Arkansas plan is legislation to help Arkansas taxpayers who have seen their investments disappear as a result of the deteriorating economic conditions. My proposal would allow taxpayers to deduct up to \$10,000—up from the \$3,000 cap they have now—as the amount an individual can deduct annually for capital losses suffered.

More than 100,000 Arkansans count on such investments. Arkansas families have seen the value of investments plummet during the current economic crisis. The resulting losses from the dramatic downturn in the market have been felt by all investors, but probably the hardest hit are those taxpayers who are at or near retirement age, who are counting on such funds for their retirement security. This gives them a little bit of ease.

I have also introduced the Savings for Working Families Act, which would encourage low- and middle-income families to establish savings accounts for the purchase of a first home, a college education, or to start a business. These individual development accounts have a proven track record of success in Arkansas.

In addition, today I introduce the Family Tax Relief Act to help the families of more than 140,000 Arkansas children afford the cost of childcare. If you look around this Nation at the hard-working Americans—particularly in Arkansas—who are in need of childcare, good-quality childcare, to be able to pay for it, this is a substantial difference in these economic times that helps them achieve that goal.

Also, today I introduce a bill to update rules for S corporations so that businesses can access capital and have the opportunity to expand and create the much needed jobs Arkansans need.

Together, I believe these bills will equip the working families and small businesses in our great State of Arkansas with the resources needed to navigate the current crisis.

Next week, my Arkansas Plan will focus on encouraging American innovation and entrepreneurship to create new jobs here at home and lessen our dependence on foreign oil. I will introduce a series of energy, research and development, and workforce training