

existing infrastructure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. BEGICH, and Mr. VITTER):

S. 1265. A bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to provide members of the Armed Forces and their family members equal access to voter registration assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. WARNER, and Mrs. LINCOLN):

S. 1266. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to require that broadband conduit be installed as part of certain highway construction projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. DEMINT (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BYRD, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. ENZI, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. WICKER):

S. Con. Res. 27. A concurrent resolution directing the Architect of the Capitol to engrave the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and the National Motto of "In God we trust" in the Capitol Visitor Center; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 46

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 46, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps.

S. 254

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 254, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of home infusion therapy under the Medicare Program.

S. 405

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 405, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that a deduction equal to fair market value shall be allowed for charitable contributions of literary, musical, artistic, or scholarly compositions created by the donor.

S. 423

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 423, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize advance appropriations for certain medical care accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs by providing two-fiscal year budget authority, and for other purposes.

S. 511

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 511, a bill to amend part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an exemption of pharmacies and pharmacists from certain Medicare accreditation requirements in the same manner as such exemption applies to certain professionals.

S. 547

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 547, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to reduce the costs of prescription drugs for enrollees of Medicaid managed care organizations by extending the discounts offered under fee-for-service Medicaid to such organizations.

S. 572

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 572, a bill to provide for the issuance of a "forever stamp" to honor the sacrifices of the brave men and women of the armed forces who have been awarded the Purple Heart.

S. 624

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 624, a bill to provide 100,000,000 people with first-time access to safe drinking water and sanitation on a sustainable basis by 2015 by improving the capacity of the United States Government to fully implement the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005.

S. 645

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) 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. 649

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 649, a bill to require an inventory of radio spectrum bands managed by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration and the Federal Communications Commission.

S. 653

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 653, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the bicentennial of the writing of the Star-Spangled Banner, and for other purposes.

S. 654

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 654, a bill to amend title XIX of the So-

cial Security Act to cover physician services delivered by podiatric physicians to ensure access by Medicaid beneficiaries to appropriate quality foot and ankle care.

S. 769

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 769, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to, and increase utilization of, bone mass measurement benefits under the Medicare part B program.

S. 801

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 801, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to waive charges for humanitarian care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to family members accompanying veterans severely injured after September 11, 2001, as they receive medical care from the Department and to provide assistance to family caregivers, and for other purposes.

S. 827

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 827, a bill to establish a program to reunite bondholders with matured unredeemed United States savings bonds.

S. 841

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 841, a bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to study and establish a motor vehicle safety standard that provides for a means of alerting blind and other pedestrians of motor vehicle operation.

S. 879

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 879, a bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide immunity for reports of suspected terrorist activity or suspicious behavior and response.

S. 891

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 891, a bill to require annual disclosure to the Securities and Exchange Commission of activities involving columbite-tantalite, cassiterite, and wolframite from the Democratic Republic of Congo, and for other purposes.

S. 950

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 950, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to authorize physical therapists to evaluate and treat Medicare beneficiaries without a requirement for a physician referral, and for other purposes.

S. 979

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 979, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a nationwide health insurance purchasing pool for small businesses and the self-employed that would offer a choice of private health plans and make health coverage more affordable, predictable, and accessible.

S. 1019

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1019, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for the purchase of hearing aids.

S. 1023

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1023, a bill to establish a non-profit corporation to communicate United States entry policies and otherwise promote leisure, business, and scholarly travel to the United States.

S. 1026

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1026, a bill to amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to improve procedures for the collection and delivery of marked absentee ballots of absent overseas uniformed service voters, and for other purposes.

S. 1066

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1066, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to preserve access to ambulance services under the Medicare program.

S. 1091

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1091, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an energy investment credit for energy storage property connected to the grid, and for other purposes.

S. 1157

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1157, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect and preserve access of Medicare beneficiaries in rural areas to health care providers under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 1174

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1174, a bill to amend the

Public Health Service Act and the Social Security Act to increase the number of primary care physicians and primary care providers and to improve patient access to primary care services, and for other services.

S. 1214

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1214, a bill to conserve fish and aquatic communities in the United States through partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation, to improve the quality of life for the people of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1233

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1233, a bill to reauthorize and improve the SBIR and STTR programs and for other purposes.

S. 1242

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) were added as cosponsors of S. 1242, a bill to prohibit the Federal Government from holding ownership interests, and for other purposes.

S. 1253

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the names of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1253, a bill to address reimbursement of certain costs to automobile dealers.

S.J. RES. 15

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) 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. CON. RES. 11

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 11, a concurrent resolution condemning all forms of anti-Semitism and reaffirming the support of Congress for the mandate of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 26

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. BURRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 26, a concurrent resolution apologizing for the enslavement and racial segregation of African Americans.

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KYL (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 1259. A bill to protect all patients by prohibiting the use of data obtained from comparative effectiveness research to deny coverage of items or services under Federal health care programs and to ensure that comparative effectiveness research accounts for advancements in personalized medicine and differences in patient treatment response; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I wish to talk about a bill Senator MCCONNELL and I introduced today. I think a companion bill will also be introduced by some of the leadership in the House of Representatives. The number of the bill is S. 1259, and this bill is called the PATIENTS Act—"patient" as in doctor-patient. The idea is to focus on health care as it relates to patients.

Health care reform should be patient centered. Nothing should come between the physician and the patient. We are concerned there is something being done that we need to stop because it could, in fact, insert government bureaucracies between the patient and the physician. What has happened is that in the stimulus bill, the Congress appropriated \$1.1 billion for something called comparative effectiveness research. Comparative effectiveness research has been used for years by physicians and hospitals. Medical schools do research, and they determine what kinds of treatments are best. For example, if you have two different drugs for the same condition, they will do testing to see which one seems to work the best. It is called clinical trials. They do clinical research, and physicians and hospitals frequently use that research as recommended for the best way to treat a particular condition. It is not mandatory. Obviously, what is good for most patients may not be good for all patients. So it is not something that is obviously forced upon people, but it provides good information. The problem is that too many people now who are proposing health care reform want to use comparative effectiveness research to end up rationing care, to have a Federal entity or even a State entity, or I should say a private entity, use that research in ways that would end up rationing care, to say some care is just too expensive for you to have, and since the government is paying for it, the government is not going to give it to you.

What our bill would do is make it clear that comparative effectiveness research cannot be used to deny coverage of either a health care service or treatment by the Secretary of HHS. And we say the Secretary of Health and Human Services because all of the various entities that might do that in the Federal Government are part of HHS. So we simply prohibit the Secretary of HHS from using this comparative effectiveness research to deny