

original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1572

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1572 proposed to S. 1390, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1574

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1574 intended to be proposed to S. 1390, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1627

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1627 proposed to S. 1390, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1657

At the request of Mr. BENNETT, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1657 proposed to S. 1390, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1670

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1670 intended to be proposed to S. 1390, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1681

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) and the Senator from Idaho

(Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1681 intended to be proposed to S. 1390, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1701

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1701 intended to be proposed to S. 1390, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1704

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1704 intended to be proposed to S. 1390, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1706

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1706 proposed to S. 1390, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1717

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1717 proposed to S. 1390, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1744

At the request of Mr. BENNETT, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1744 proposed to S. 1390, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1752

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. BURRIS), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1752 proposed to S. 1390, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1764

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1764 proposed to S. 1390, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1765

At the request of Mr. CHAMBLISS, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1765 proposed to S. 1390, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REID (for Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mr. CARDIN, and Mrs. MURRAY)):

S. 1506. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to establish national safety standards for transit agencies operating heavy rail on fixed guideway; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, today I introduce common sense legislation requiring the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation to implement and enforce national safety standards for metro systems. Commuter rail systems like Maryland's MARC and the Virginia Railroad Express have Federal safety standards. Our metro systems must have them too. It is time for Congress to give the U.S. Department of Transportation this authority to keep commuters and train operators safe.

Last month the nation's hearts and prayers went out to the families of the nine passengers killed including one Marylander and 52 injured in the tragic

crash involving two Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, WMATA, Metrorail trains. Shortly after this horrible accident, the Members of the Maryland and Virginia Congressional delegations and Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON met with the National Transportation Safety Board, NTSB, to be briefed on their ongoing investigation into this crash. This is when I learned the NTSB had recommended that the Federal Transit Administration, FTA, establish Federal standards for metro systems but the FTA had not taken action. Apparently, the FTA doesn't think it has this authority. Well, my bill fixes that. It gives the FTA the green light to move forward with Federal safety standards.

My bill directs the Secretary of Transportation to work with the NTSB to establish these new Federal standards. The bill also requires the Secretary to implement the NTSB's prior recommendations. These include safety standards relating to crashworthiness, emergency evacuation and event recorders of rail transit cars and hours of service for transit operators.

The NTSB is still investigating the cause of last month's crash here in our nation's capital. It will take about one year to complete. Existing evidence points to malfunctions with WMATA's train control system. Federal safety standards may not have prevented these malfunctions, but they may have been able to save lives had FTA implemented and enforced crashworthiness and emergency evacuation standards for transit rail cars. We also would know a lot more about the cause of the crash had FTA required event recorders on transit rail cars, as required on airplanes. These are all recommendations the NTSB has made that have not been addressed by the FTA.

More than 7 million people board rail transit cars every weekday in the U.S. Our metro systems must be safe. It is a no brainer that Congress provide the U.S. Department of Transportation with this authority.

I am pleased to introduce this bill with Senators CARDIN and MURRAY. I hope we can address this important safety issue quickly.

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. 1506

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 "National Metro Safety Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Every weekday more than 7,000,000 people board rail transit vehicles in the United States.

(2) Despite the National Transportation Safety Board's recommendations to the Federal Transit Administration to establish and

enforce Federal safety standards for transit agencies operating heavy rail on fixed guideway, the Federal Transit Administration has not taken action because of a perceived absence of authority to establish such standards.

(3) The Federal Transit Administration has not established minimum Federal standards that govern the structural crashworthiness of heavy rail passenger cars on fixed guideway.

(4) The National Transportation Safety Board concluded that the failure to have minimum crashworthiness standards places an unnecessary risk on passengers and crew.

(5) The Federal Transit Administration does not have any requirements that rail transit cars be equipped with means for safe and rapid emergency responder entry and passenger evacuation.

(6) Although the installation of data recorders on rail transit cars would help investigators determine the factors contributing to crashes, the Federal Transit Administration does not require such installation.

(7) Although the National Transportation Safety Board has expressed concern that the hours of service practices of transit agencies do not provide transit vehicle operators with the opportunity to obtain adequate sleep to be fully alert and to operate safely, the Federal Transit Administration does not have hours of service regulations to govern the practices of transit agencies.

SEC. 3. NATIONAL RAIL TRANSIT SAFETY STANDARDS.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Notwithstanding section 5334(b)(1) of title 49, United States Code, the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the National Transportation Safety Board shall, by regulation, develop, implement, and enforce national safety standards for transit agencies operating heavy rail on fixed guideway.

(b) **INCLUSION OF NTSB RECOMMENDATIONS.**—The standards established under subsection (a) shall include the standards recommended to the Federal Transit Administration by the National Transportation Safety Board related to crashworthiness, emergency access and egress, event recorders, and hours of service.

(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall submit a report to Congress that describes the progress made in establishing the standards described in subsection (a).

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 1512. A bill to fund comprehensive programs to ensure an adequate supply of nurses; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DURBIN. This is a critical time in America. For the first time in many decades, we have a real opportunity to reform our healthcare system and improve how care is delivered in our country and the ability for Americans to access such quality care.

The delivery of quality care in our country is as great as it is because of the more than 2.9 million nurses in our country. Americans depend on nurses to deliver quality patient care, yet our nation faces a critical shortage of nurses. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that more than 1.2 million new and replacement nurses will be needed by 2014 to keep up with the aging Baby Boomer population and the increased demand for health care.

As we work toward reform of health insurance, we need to prioritize in-

creasing the number of nurses entering the workforce. We can do that by building on the current healthcare workforce. That allows us to work with people who are familiar with the work environment in the health field, require less time in orientation than new workers, and represent a diverse population more representative of the patients being served.

Today, I am pleased to introduce the Nurse Training and Retention Act to assist states and localities in creating career ladders for current healthcare workers who are ready to upgrade their skills. Many people in the healthcare workforce are in entry level jobs that don't always offer opportunities for advancement. For much of this population, advanced education is unaffordable and unattainable. The legislation I am proposing offers incumbent healthcare workers realistic options to enhance their skills, advance their careers, and meet the growing demand for nurses.

The legislation authorizes the Department of Labor to award grants to support training programs for healthcare workers. Health aides can use these programs to earn a certificate or degree in nursing. Nurses can upgrade their skills and qualifications so that they can serve as nurse faculty, which would help relieve the backlog of qualified applicants who aren't in nursing school because of the lack of faculty.

Programs administered by joint labor/management training partnerships have made great progress educating and retaining nurses. The proposed grant program builds on the good work these partnerships have done and encourages further collaboration with colleges and universities. The combination of support in the workplace and collaboration with nursing schools to meet the needs of the non-traditional student means these students are performing very well in nursing school. These new nurses have higher retention rates than other, more traditional students who do not have work experience in the field. Another benefit of the career ladder is that these collaborations are building a more diverse nursing workforce.

Another important player in this process is the employer. That's why my bill asks employers of incumbent healthcare workers to invest in the training programs. This completes the partnership, so that labor, employer, and the participating school are all working together to retain and grow the healthcare workforce we have today.

Nurses play an invaluable role in patient care in this country. By supporting our current healthcare workforce and offering these individuals a chance to move up in the field, the Nurse Training and Retention Act can help us tap an overlooked resource. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

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. 1512

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 “Nurse Training and Retention Act of 2009”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) America’s healthcare system depends on an adequate supply of trained nurses to deliver quality patient care.

(2) Over the next 15 years, this shortage is expected to grow significantly. The Health Resources and Services Administration has projected that by 2020, there will be a shortage of nurses in every State and that overall only 64 percent of the demand for nurses will be satisfied, with a shortage of 1,016,900 nurses nationally.

(3) To avert such a shortage, today’s network of healthcare workers should have access to education and support from their employers to participate in educational and training opportunities.

(4) With the appropriate education and support, incumbent healthcare workers and incumbent bedside nurses are untapped sources which can meet these needs and address the nursing shortage and provide quality care as the American population ages.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) PURPOSES.—It is the purpose of this section to authorize grants to—

(1) address the projected shortage of nurses by funding comprehensive programs to create a career ladder to nursing (including Certified Nurse Assistants, Licensed Practical Nurses, Licensed Vocational Nurses, and Registered Nurses) for incumbent ancillary healthcare workers;

(2) increase the capacity for educating nurses by increasing both nurse faculty and clinical opportunities through collaborative programs between staff nurse organizations, healthcare providers, and accredited schools of nursing; and

(3) provide training programs through education and training organizations jointly administered by healthcare providers and healthcare labor organizations or other organizations representing staff nurses and frontline healthcare workers, working in collaboration with accredited schools of nursing and academic institutions.

(b) GRANTS.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall establish a partnership grant program to award grants to eligible entities to carry out comprehensive programs to provide education to nurses and create a pipeline to nursing for incumbent ancillary healthcare workers who wish to advance their careers, and to otherwise carry out the purposes of this section.

(c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section an entity shall—

(1) be—

(A) a healthcare entity that is jointly administered by a healthcare employer and a labor union representing the healthcare employees of the employer and that carries out activities using labor management training funds as provided for under section 302 of the Labor-Management Relations Act, 1947 (18 U.S.C. 186(c)(6));

(B) an entity that operates a training program that is jointly administered by—

(i) one or more healthcare providers or facilities, or a trade association of healthcare providers; and

(ii) one or more organizations which represent the interests of direct care healthcare workers or staff nurses and in which the direct care healthcare workers or staff nurses have direct input as to the leadership of the organization; or

(C) a State training partnership program that consists of non-profit organizations that include equal participation from industry, including public or private employers, and labor organizations including joint labor-management training programs, and which may include representatives from local governments, worker investment agency one-stop career centers, community based organizations, community colleges, and accredited schools of nursing; and

(2) submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(d) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR HEALTHCARE EMPLOYER DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (c).—To be eligible for a grant under this section, a healthcare employer described in subsection (c) shall demonstrate—

(1) an established program within their facility to encourage the retention of existing nurses;

(2) it provides wages and benefits to its nurses that are competitive for its market or that have been collectively bargained with a labor organization; and

(3) support for programs funded under this section through 1 or more of the following:

(A) The provision of paid leave time and continued health coverage to incumbent healthcare workers to allow their participation in nursing career ladder programs, including Certified Nurse Assistants, Licensed Practical Nurses, Licensed Vocational Nurses, and Registered Nurses.

(B) Contributions to a joint labor-management training fund which administers the program involved.

(C) The provision of paid release time, incentive compensation, or continued health coverage to staff nurses who desire to work full- or part-time in a faculty position.

(D) The provision of paid release time for staff nurses to enable them to obtain a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree, other advanced nursing degrees, specialty training, or certification program.

(E) The payment of tuition assistance which is managed by a joint labor-management training fund or other jointly administered program.

(e) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not make a grant under this section unless the applicant involved agrees, with respect to the costs to be incurred by the applicant in carrying out the program under the grant, to make available non-Federal contributions (in cash or in kind under subparagraph (B)) toward such costs in an amount equal to not less than \$1 for each \$1 of Federal funds provided in the grant. Such contributions may be made directly or through donations from public or private entities, or may be provided through the cash equivalent of paid release time provided to incumbent worker students.

(B) DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT OF NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTION.—Non-Federal contributions required in subparagraph (A) may be in cash or in kind (including paid release time), fairly evaluated, including equipment or services (and excluding indirect or overhead costs). Amounts provided by the Federal Government, or services assisted or subsidized to any significant extent by the Federal Government, may not be included in de-

termining the amount of such non-Federal contributions.

(2) REQUIRED COLLABORATION.—Entities carrying out or overseeing programs carried out with assistance provided under this section shall demonstrate collaboration with accredited schools of nursing which may include community colleges and other academic institutions providing Associate, Bachelor’s, or advanced nursing degree programs or specialty training or certification programs.

(f) ACTIVITIES.—Amounts awarded to an entity under a grant under this section shall be used for the following:

(1) To carry out programs that provide education and training to establish nursing career ladders to educate incumbent healthcare workers to become nurses (including Certified Nurse Assistants, Licensed Practical Nurses, Licensed Vocational Nurses, and Registered Nurses). Such programs shall include one or more of the following:

(A) Preparing incumbent workers to return to the classroom through English as a second language education, GED education, pre-college counseling, college preparation classes, and support with entry level college classes that are a prerequisite to nursing.

(B) Providing tuition assistance with preference for dedicated cohort classes in community colleges, universities, accredited schools of nursing with supportive services including tutoring and counseling.

(C) Providing assistance in preparing for and meeting all nursing licensure tests and requirements.

(D) Carrying out orientation and mentorship programs that assist newly graduated nurses in adjusting to working at the bedside to ensure their retention post graduation, and ongoing programs to support nurse retention.

(E) Providing stipends for release time and continued healthcare coverage to enable incumbent healthcare workers to participate in these programs.

(2) To carry out programs that assist nurses in obtaining advanced degrees and completing specialty training or certification programs and to establish incentives for nurses to assume nurse faculty positions on a part-time or full-time basis. Such programs shall include one or more of the following:

(A) Increasing the pool of nurses with advanced degrees who are interested in teaching by funding programs that enable incumbent nurses to return to school.

(B) Establishing incentives for advanced degree bedside nurses who wish to teach in nursing programs so they can obtain a leave from their bedside position to assume a full- or part-time position as adjunct or full time faculty without the loss of salary or benefits.

(C) Collaboration with accredited schools of nursing which may include community colleges and other academic institutions providing Associate, Bachelor’s, or advanced nursing degree programs, or specialty training or certification programs, for nurses to carry out innovative nursing programs which meet the needs of bedside nursing and healthcare providers.

(g) PREFERENCE.—In awarding grants under this section the Secretary shall give preference to programs that—

(1) provide for improving nurse retention;

(2) provide for improving the diversity of the new nurse graduates to reflect changes in the demographics of the patient population;

(3) provide for improving the quality of nursing education to improve patient care and safety;

(4) have demonstrated success in upgrading incumbent healthcare workers to become

nurses or which have established effective programs or pilots to increase nurse faculty; or

(5) are modeled after or affiliated with such programs described in paragraph (4).

(h) EVALUATION.—

(1) PROGRAM EVALUATIONS.—An entity that receives a grant under this section shall annually evaluate, and submit to the Secretary a report on, the activities carried out under the grant and the outcomes of such activities. Such outcomes may include—

(A) an increased number of incumbent workers entering an accredited school of nursing and in the pipeline for nursing programs;

(B) an increasing number of graduating nurses and improved nurse graduation and licensure rates;

(C) improved nurse retention;

(D) an increase in the number of staff nurses at the healthcare facility involved;

(E) an increase in the number of nurses with advanced degrees in nursing;

(F) an increase in the number of nurse faculty;

(G) improved measures of patient quality (which may include staffing ratios of nurses, patient satisfaction rates, patient safety measures); and

(H) an increase in the diversity of new nurse graduates relative to the patient population.

(2) GENERAL REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Labor shall, using data and information from the reports received under paragraph (1), submit to Congress a report concerning the overall effectiveness of the grant program carried out under this section.

(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, such sums as may be necessary.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 222—RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COMMANDER CHRIS CASSIDY, SPACE SHUTTLE MISSION SPECIALIST OF THE STS-127 SPACE SHUTTLE MISSION AND THE EXPEDITION 19 INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION MISSION, FOR BECOMING THE 500TH PERSON TO FLY INTO SPACE

Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 222

Whereas Lieutenant Commander Chris Cassidy attended York High School in York, Maine;

Whereas, in 1993, Lieutenant Commander Chris Cassidy earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics from the United States Naval Academy;

Whereas, in 2000, Lieutenant Commander Chris Cassidy earned a master's degree in ocean engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology;

Whereas Lieutenant Commander Chris Cassidy honorably served as a Navy SEAL for 10 years;

Whereas Lieutenant Commander Chris Cassidy graduated with honors from Class 192 of the Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL program;

Whereas, in 2003 and 2004, Lieutenant Commander Chris Cassidy was a Quest speaker at

the United States Naval Academy Combat Leadership Seminar;

Whereas Lieutenant Commander Chris Cassidy was awarded a Bronze Star with combat "V" and a Presidential Unit Citation for leading a 9-day operation at the Zharwar Kili cave complex on the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan;

Whereas, in 2004, Lieutenant Commander Chris Cassidy was awarded a second Bronze Star for combat leadership in Afghanistan;

Whereas Lieutenant Commander Chris Cassidy volunteered for and completed a week-long, 180-mile charity kayak trip from Norfolk, Virginia, to Washington, District of Columbia, to raise money and awareness for the Special Operations Warrior Foundation;

Whereas, in May 2004, Lieutenant Commander Chris Cassidy was selected by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to become an astronaut;

Whereas, on July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong became the first person to step on the moon;

Whereas 2009 marks the 40th anniversary of the Apollo 11 mission;

Whereas, on July 15, 2009, aboard space shuttle mission STS-127, Lieutenant Commander Chris Cassidy became the 500th person in history to fly into space;

Whereas the primary goal of the STS-127 space shuttle mission is to deliver the final components of the Kibo laboratory of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency to the International Space Station; and

Whereas the STS-127 mission is essential to the performance of valuable science experiments in the vacuum of space: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes Lieutenant Commander Chris Cassidy, space shuttle mission specialist of the STS-127 space shuttle mission and the Expedition 19 International Space Station mission, for becoming the 500th person in history to fly into space; and

(2) commends Lieutenant Commander Chris Cassidy and the STS-127 space shuttle mission crew for risking their lives to advance science and human understanding.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to submit a resolution recognizing Lieutenant Commander Chris Cassidy, space shuttle mission specialist of the STS-127 space shuttle mission and the Expedition 19 International Space Station mission, for becoming the 500th person to fly into space.

While Lieutenant Commander Chris Cassidy is a native of Salem, Massachusetts, he considers York, ME, his hometown, where he attended York High School. Chris has a very impressive academic background earning a bachelor of science in Mathematics from the U.S. Naval Academy, and a Master of Science in Ocean Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Even more impressive is his ongoing service to his country. Chris spent 10 years as a U.S. Navy SEAL, which includes two tours in Afghanistan. During that time, he received numerous awards including the Bronze Star with the combat "V" and the Presidential Unit Citation for leading a 9-day operation at the Zharwar Kili cave complex. This operation was a national priority objective directly on the Afghan/Pakistan border. Lieutenant Commander Cassidy received a second Bronze Star for combat leadership

service in Afghanistan in 2004. Chris was also a Quest speaker at the U.S. Naval Academy's 2003 and 2004 Combat Leadership Seminars.

Upon returning from his service, Chris was selected by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to begin astronaut training in 2004 at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston.

The space shuttle STS-127 mission is Lieutenant Commander Cassidy's first time in space. As this Nation celebrates the 40th anniversary of the Apollo 11 mission and the first man on the moon, Chris Cassidy becomes the 500th person to travel to space on the Space Shuttle Endeavor. The STS-127 mission's primary goal is to deliver the final components of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's Kibo laboratory to the International Space Station, which will be essential to allowing astronauts to perform valuable science experiments that are exposed to the vacuum of space. In order to install those components, five space walks are scheduled for the 16-day mission and Chris is expected to perform three of them.

This resolution recognizes Space Shuttle Mission Specialist Navy Lieutenant Commander Chris Cassidy of STS-127 space shuttle mission and the Expedition 19 International Space Station mission and for becoming the 500th person in history to fly into space; and also commends him and the rest of the STS-127 Mission crew for risking their lives in the advance of science and human understanding. I hope my colleagues will join Senator COLLINS and me in supporting this resolution.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1767. Mr. BAYH (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1390, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

SA 1768. Mr. GRAHAM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1390, supra.

SA 1769. Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. LUGAR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1770. Mr. CASEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1771. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1772. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1773. Mr. KYL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1390, supra.

SA 1774. Mr. KYL (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. MARTINEZ,