

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. REID, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. KERRY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. KAUFMAN, Mr. CORNYN, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. Res. 268. A resolution recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month and celebrating the heritage and culture of Latinos in the United States and their immense contributions to the Nation; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. Con. Res. 39. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that stable and affordable housing is an essential component of an effective strategy for the prevention, treatment, and care of human immunodeficiency virus, and that the United States should make a commitment to providing adequate funding for the development of housing as a response to the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome pandemic; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 305

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 305, a bill to amend title IV of the Public Health Service Act to create a National Childhood Brain Tumor Prevention Network to provide grants and coordinate research with respect to the causes of and risk factors associated with childhood brain tumors, and for other purposes.

S. 348

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 348, a bill to amend section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 to provide that funds received as universal service contributions and the universal service support programs established pursuant to that section are not subject to certain provisions of title 31, United States Code, commonly known as the Antideficiency Act.

S. 451

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 451, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America.

S. 484

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) 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. 511

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) 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. 538

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 538, a bill to increase the recruitment and retention of school counselors, school social workers, and school psychologists by low-income local educational agencies.

S. 599

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 599, a bill to amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to create a presumption that a disability or death of a Federal employee in fire protection activities caused by any certain diseases is the result of the performance of such employee's duty.

S. 604

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 604, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to reform the manner in which the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System is audited by the Comptroller General of the United States and the manner in which such audits are reported, and for other purposes.

S. 752

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 752, a bill to reform the financing of Senate elections, and for other purposes.

S. 850

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 850, a bill to amend the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to improve the conservation of sharks.

S. 886

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 886, a bill to establish a program to provide guarantees for debt issued by State catastrophe insurance programs to assist in the financial recovery from natural catastrophes.

S. 938

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 938, a bill to require the President to call a White House Conference on Children and Youth in 2010.

S. 987

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cospon-

sor of S. 987, a bill to protect girls in developing countries through the prevention of child marriage, and for other purposes.

S. 990

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 990, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to expand access to healthy afterschool meals for school children in working families.

S. 1055

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1055, a bill to grant the congressional gold medal, collectively, to the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, United States Army, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.

S. 1065

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1065, a bill to authorize State and local governments to direct divestiture from, and prevent investment in, companies with investments of \$20,000, 000 or more in Iran's energy sector, and for other purposes.

S. 1066

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, his name was added as a cosponsor 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. 1257

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1257, a bill to amend the Social Security Act to build on the aging network to establish long-term services and supports through single-entry point systems, evidence based disease prevention and health promotion programs, and enhanced nursing home diversion programs.

S. 1327

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1327, a bill to reauthorize the public and Indian housing drug elimination program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and for other purposes.

S. 1340

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1340, a bill to establish a minimum funding level for programs under the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 for fiscal years 2010 to 2014 that ensures a reasonable growth in victim programs without jeopardizing the long-term sustainability of the Crime Victims Fund.

S. 1504

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin

(Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1504, a bill to provide that Federal courts shall not dismiss complaints under rule 12(b)(6) or (e) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, except under the standards set forth by the Supreme Court of the United States in *Conley v. Gibson*, 355 U.S. 41 (1957).

S. 1511

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1511, a bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to improve awareness and access to colorectal cancer screening tests under the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1547

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1547, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, and the United States Housing Act of 1937 to enhance and expand the assistance provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Housing and Urban Development to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness, and for other purposes.

S. 1583

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1583, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the new markets tax credit through 2014, and for other purposes.

S. 1612

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1612, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the operation of employee stock ownership plans, and for other purposes.

S. 1624

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1624, a bill to amend title 11 of the United States Code, to provide protection for medical debt homeowners, to restore bankruptcy protections for individuals experiencing economic distress as caregivers to ill, injured, or disabled family members, and to exempt from means testing debtors whose financial problems were caused by serious medical problems, and for other purposes.

S. 1635

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1635, a bill to establish an Indian Youth telemental health demonstration project, to enhance the provision of mental health care services to Indian youth, to encourage Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and other mental health care providers serving residents of Indian country to obtain the services of predoctoral psychology and psychiatry interns, and for other purposes.

S. 1663

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1663, a bill to make available funds from the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 for funding a voluntary employees' beneficiary association with respect to former employees of Delphi Corporation.

S. RES. 263

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 263, a resolution designating October 2009 as "National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month".

AMENDMENT NO. 2361

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2361 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3288, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2365

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) and the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2365 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3288, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 1669. A bill to provide all Medicare beneficiaries with the right to guaranteed issue of a Medicare supplemental policy; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, a key component of the health reform debate is ensuring that all people—regardless of their health status—have access to comprehensive and affordable coverage options. Unfortunately, under current law Medicare beneficiaries are subject to discriminatory medical practices that deny coverage options based on their age, condition, or disability.

Medigap plans provide vital assistance to Medicare beneficiaries in paying Medicare cost-sharing. Without supplemental coverage, the absence of an out-of-pocket limit in Medicare leaves beneficiaries vulnerable to catastrophic medical expenses.

Unfortunately, Medicare beneficiaries with disabilities or who have end-stage renal disease, ESRD, do not have the same guaranteed issue rights as Medicare beneficiaries age 65 and older. In the absence of equal opportunity and access to Medigap policies

at the Federal level, 29 States have chosen to grant the same rights to disabled and ESRD beneficiaries that seniors currently enjoy.

ESRD beneficiaries are also the only group of Medicare beneficiaries currently denied the same Medicare choices as other Medicare beneficiaries. They are statutorily prohibited from enrolling in Medicare Advantage plans.

Today I am introducing the Equal Access to Medicare Options Act, a bill that improves coverage options to Medicare beneficiaries. First, the legislation would extend guaranteed issue of Medigap policies to all Medicare beneficiaries rather than limiting guaranteed issue to those beneficiaries who are over 65 years of age. This change will significantly improve coverage options and affordability for beneficiaries with disabilities or end-stage renal disease.

Second, the legislation recognizes that Medicare beneficiaries need flexibility to adjust their coverage as changes to their plans are made. More specifically, the legislation would give guaranteed issue rights to Medicare Advantage enrollees if they decide to switch to traditional Medicare during an enrollment period. Today, if a Medicare Advantage enrollee learns of premium increases or benefit reduction in their plan, they have the option of returning to traditional Medicare but they have no assurance they can buy Medigap coverage if they do so.

Third, the legislation would provide guaranteed issue to dual eligibles who lose their Medicaid coverage and find themselves in traditional Medicare without the cost protections of Medicaid and without supplemental coverage options.

Finally, this legislation would for the first time give beneficiaries with end-stage renal disease the option of enrolling in Medicare Advantage plans.

I would like to thank a number of organizations who have been integral to the development of the Equal Access to Medicare Options Act and who have endorsed it today, including the AARP, California Health Advocates, Center for Medicare Advocacy, Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities, Consumers Union, Dialysis Patient Citizens, Fresenius Medical Care, Medicare Rights Center, and the National Kidney Foundation.

These reforms would ensure that all Medicare beneficiaries regardless of their disability or age have equal opportunity and access to affordable Medicare options to reduce out-of-pocket costs. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate to achieve these goals in the context of health care reform.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. KOHL, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. KYL):

S. 1670. A bill to reform and modernize the limitations on exclusive rights relating to secondary transmissions of certain signals; to the Committee on the Judiciary.