

S. 1728. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyer credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal purposes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 1729. A bill to establish driver education curriculum for teenage drivers and to provide grants to States and tribal governments to carry out driver education training for licensed teenage drivers; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 1730. A bill to provide for minimum loss ratios for health insurance coverage; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 1731. A bill to require certain mortgagees to make loan modifications, to establish a grant program for State and local government mediation programs, to create databases on foreclosures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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

S. 1732. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for health data regarding Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 1733. A bill to create clean energy jobs, promote energy independence, reduce global warming pollution, and transition to a clean energy economy; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. KYL (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 1734. A bill to reduce the cost of health care and ensure patient access to doctors by ending excessive malpractice verdicts through common-sense lawsuit reform; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself and Mr. VITTER):

S. Res. 294. A resolution commending the Louisiana State University Tigers men's baseball team for winning the 2009 National Collegiate Athletic Association College World Series; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BAYH (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. INOUE, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. FEINGOLD):

S. Res. 295. A resolution designating October 13, 2009, as "National Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. LINCOLN (for herself, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. KOHL):

S. Res. 296. A resolution designating October 2009 as "National Work and Family Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 213

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a co-

sponsor of S. 213, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to ensure air passengers have access to necessary services while on a grounded air carrier, and for other purposes.

S. 346

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 346, a bill to implement equal protection under the 14th article of amendment to the Constitution for the right to life of each born and preborn human person.

S. 435

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 435, a bill to provide for evidence-based and promising practices related to juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity prevention and intervention to help build individual, family, and community strength and resiliency to ensure that youth lead productive, safe, health, gang-free, and law-abiding lives.

S. 664

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 664, a bill to create a systemic risk monitor for the financial system of the United States, to oversee financial regulatory activities of the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

S. 694

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 694, a bill to provide assistance to Best Buddies to support the expansion and development of mentoring programs, and for other purposes.

S. 729

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 729, a bill to amend the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to permit States to determine State residency for higher education purposes and to authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain alien students who are long-term United States residents and who entered the United States as children, and for other purposes.

S. 812

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 812, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions.

S. 987

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) 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. 990

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from New Jersey

(Mr. LAUTENBERG) 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 Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) 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. 1171

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1171, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to restore State authority to waive the 35-mile rule for designating critical access hospitals under the Medicare Program.

S. 1197

At the request of Mr. VOINOVICH, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1197, a bill to establish a grant program for automated external defibrillators in elementary and secondary schools.

S. 1304

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1304, a bill to restore the economic rights of automobile dealers, and for other purposes.

S. 1382

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. KAUFMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1382, a bill to improve and expand the Peace Corps for the 21st century, and for other purposes.

S. 1472

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1472, a bill to establish a section within the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice to enforce human rights laws, to make technical and conforming amendments to criminal and immigration laws pertaining to human rights violations, and for other purposes.

S. 1523

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1523, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a grant program to provide supportive services in permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals and families, and for other purposes.

S. 1524

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. KAUFMAN) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were

added as cosponsors of S. 1524, a bill to strengthen the capacity, transparency, and accountability of United States foreign assistance programs to effectively adapt and respond to new challenges of the 21st century, and for other purposes.

S. 1628

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1628, a bill to amend title VII of the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of physicians who practice in underserved rural communities.

S. 1632

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1632, a bill to require full and complete public disclosure of the terms of home mortgages held by Members of Congress.

S. 1640

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1640, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage of intensive lifestyle treatment.

S. 1647

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1647, a bill to provide for additional emergency unemployment compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 1675

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1675, a bill to implement title V of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act of 1978 and to promote economical and environmentally sustainable means of meeting the energy demands of developing countries, and for other purposes.

S. 1678

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1678, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the first-time homebuyer tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 1683

At the request of Mr. BENNETT, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1683, a bill to apply recaptured taxpayer investments toward reducing the national debt.

S. 1688

At the request of Mr. BENNETT, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1688, a bill to prevent congressional reapportionment distortions by requiring that, in the questionnaires used in the taking of any decennial census of population, a checkbox or other similar option be included for respondents to indicate citizenship sta-

tus or lawful presence in the United States.

S. 1699

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1699, a bill to amend the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 to provide for the temporary availability of certain additional emergency unemployment compensation, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2259

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2259 proposed to H.R. 2997, a bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2555

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2555 proposed to H.R. 3326, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2567

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2567 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3326, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2574

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2574 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3326, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 1730. A bill to provide for minimum loss ratios for health insurance coverage; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I am pleased today to introduce the Fairness in Health Insurance Act. This bill will hold health insurance companies accountable by requiring that at least 90 percent of your premium dollars go toward health services, not profits or administrative waste. As we move forward in health reform, it is essential that health insurance companies know that their top priority must be serving beneficiaries, not taking care of shareholders or CEOs.

This bill is inspired by the unique culture of health care in Minnesota, which includes the Mayo Clinic, cooperative models like HealthPartners,

and visionary public health leadership from State legislators. Health care in our State is also distinguished by the fact that 90 percent of Minnesotans are served by a nonprofit health plan. These plans outperform their national peers and are able to put 91 cents of every premium dollar toward actual health care services.

In other plans throughout the nation, though, you may find less than 60 percent of your premium is put toward health care; the rest is for overhead, marketing and profits. By taking the profits out of the health insurance industry, Minnesota health plans do a better job helping our residents to live healthier, longer lives. The Fairness in Health Insurance Act will help us hold all health plans to the same standards we've set in Minnesota by requiring that 90 percent of premium dollars actually pay for health services.

But while millions of Americans struggle to pay for health care, insurance executives continue to make obscene salaries. Last year, three top health insurance executives saw boosts in their total compensation—some of them making almost \$10 million. I believe in fair competition but I do not support companies making obscene profits off of health care. The Fairness in Health Insurance Act will force insurance companies to prioritize health services for beneficiaries over bonus packages for CEOs.

In fact, the current reality is that most of us don't know where our health insurance premiums go. It's challenging enough to understand a billing statement from your health insurance company, much less track where your money is being spent. The Fairness in Health Insurance Act also requires transparent reporting of how health insurance companies are spending your money. This transparency is especially important as we move to cover all Americans in health reform. Clear reporting will help us hold insurance companies accountable for every dollar we invest in health insurance.

Now, although Minnesota outperforms most states in health care, I know we can continue to do better as well. When I talk with Minnesotans, I hear again and again that people are living in fear about health care. They are afraid of losing their health insurance, or worried about getting sick and going bankrupt. The reality is that 50 percent of bankruptcies today are caused by health costs and 80 percent of these Americans actually have health insurance.

Passing national health reform this year is my top priority because I have listened to Minnesotans across the State. They have told me, loud and clear, that the current health insurance system is not working for them. The Fairness in Health Insurance Act of 2009 is an important part of my health reform strategy that also includes cost containment, simplifying paperwork, focusing on prevention, pushing for a public option and making