

cosponsor of S. 362, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the collective bargaining rights and procedures for review of adverse actions of certain employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 678

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 678, a bill to reauthorize and improve the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, and for other purposes.

S. 981

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) 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. 1055

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) 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. 1320

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 1320, a bill to provide assistance to owners of manufactured homes constructed before January 1, 1976, to purchase Energy Star-qualified manufactured homes.

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1320, *supra*.

S. 1783

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1783, a bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to provide for country of origin labeling for dairy products.

S. 2760

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2760, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for an increase in the annual amount authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out comprehensive service programs for homeless veterans.

S. 2869

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. McCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2869, a bill to increase loan limits for small business concerns, to provide for low interest refinancing for small business concerns, and for other purposes.

S. 2912

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Or-

egon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2912, a bill to require lenders of loans with Federal guarantees or Federal insurance to consent to mandatory mediation.

S. 3003

At the request of Mr. DODD, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3003, a bill to enhance Federal efforts focused on public awareness and education about the risks and dangers associated with Shaken Baby Syndrome.

S. 3019

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3019, a bill to authorize funding for, and increase accessibility to, the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, to facilitate data sharing between such system and the National Crime Information Center database of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to provide incentive grants to help facilitate reporting to such systems, and for other purposes.

S. 3059

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3059, a bill to improve energy efficiency of appliances, lighting, and buildings, and for other purposes.

S. 3074

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3074, a bill to provide that Members of Congress shall not receive a cost of living adjustment in pay during fiscal year 2011.

S. RES. 440

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 440, a resolution improving the Senate cloture process.

AMENDMENT NO. 3356

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3356 proposed to H.R. 4213, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3423

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3423 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4213, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3428

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas

(Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3428 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4213, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 3086. A bill to support high-achieving, educationally disadvantaged elementary school students in high-need local educational agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today, joined by my colleague Senator GRASSLEY, to introduce legislation on behalf of the millions of talented, high-achieving American students who every day, despite our best efforts, are being left behind.

When we talk about reducing the achievement gap, we usually think of helping economically disadvantaged kids who are having a tough time in school keep up with their peers.

Unfortunately, there is also a growing gap between high-achieving kids from high-earning families and students with just as much potential and talent who come from difficult economic circumstances.

Potential is being squandered every day. Tragically, some estimates indicate that one in five of our highest-achieving students drops out of school. That is 20 percent of our best and brightest students, the hope of our nation and the key to our economic competitiveness in the 21st century, left behind.

Every child should have the opportunity to reach their full potential. So, today I introduce the Equity in Excellence Act of 2010, designed to eliminate this gap among high-achieving students by helping talented but economically disadvantaged kids find the challenging and enriching materials and programs they need to stay in school and on track.

Here is how it works.

First, our bill will help to evaluate how school districts are challenging their most talented students—and to diagnose the problem when they are not.

Second, it will put in place evidence-based programs—ranging from enrichment programs to academic acceleration strategies to high quality support material—designed to maximize learning among high-potential students.

Third, it provides funding to hire and train personnel—principals, counselors, psychologists—skilled in meeting the needs of high-achieving students.

Fourth, it provides funding to educate and inform parents of these students, so that they can partner with schools in supporting their kids.

This legislation has been endorsed by the National Association for Gifted

Children, an organization of more than 8,000 parents, teachers, education professionals, and community leaders united in support of high-achieving kids and their unique needs.

Of course we all want to ensure that every child—no matter what their strengths and weaknesses, no matter what their grades or test scores, no matter what their economic background—can get a good education that prepares them for the 21st century economy.

Every child who falls through the cracks represents a tragedy. When those who have displayed such tremendous potential are left behind, we all suffer. This legislation offers a step towards keeping those kids challenged, engaged—and in school.

I want to thank Senator GRASSLEY for joining me in this effort, and encourage our colleagues to join as well.

By Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. 3088. A bill to reduce the number of executive branch political appointees; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I am pleased to be joined by my good friend the senior Senator from Arizona, Mr. MCCAIN, in introducing legislation to reduce the number of presidential political appointees. Specifically, the bill caps the number of political appointees at 2,000. When I previously introduced this legislation, the Congressional Budget Office estimates it would save \$382 million over the next 5 years and over \$872 over the next 10 years.

The bill is based on recommendations of a number of distinguished panels, including the 1996 Twentieth Century Fund Task Force on the Presidential Appointment Process. The Task Force findings, which are still very relevant today, are part of a long line of recommendations that we reduce the number of political appointees in the Executive Branch. For many years, the proposal has been included in CBO's annual publication Reducing the Deficit: Spending and Revenue Options, and it was one of the central recommendations of the National Commission on the Public Service, chaired by former Federal Reserve Board Chairman and current economic advisor to President Obama, Paul Volcker.

This proposal is also consistent with the recommendations of former Vice President Al Gore's National Performance Review, which called for reductions in the number of federal managers and supervisors, arguing that "over-control and micro management" not only "stifle the creativity of line managers and workers, they consume billions per year in salary, benefits, and administrative costs."

Those sentiments were also expressed in the 1989 and 2003 Volcker Commission reports, which argued the growing number of presidential appointees may "actually undermine effective presidential control of the executive

branch." The first Volcker Commission recommended limiting the number of political appointees to 2,000, as this legislation does.

It is essential that any administration be able to implement the policies that brought it into office in the first place. Government must be responsive to the priorities of the electorate. But as the Volcker Commissions noted, the great increase in the number of political appointees in recent years has not made government more effective or more responsive to political leadership.

Between 1980 and 2008 the ranks of political appointees rose by more than 27 percent whereas between that same period, excluding the defense sector, the civilian workforce remained consistent at about 1.1 to 1.2 million.

In recommending a cap on political appointees, the 1989 and 2003 Volcker Commission reports noted that the large number of presidential appointees simply cannot be managed effectively by any President or White House. The 1989 Commission argued that this lack of control and political focus "may actually dilute the President's ability to develop and enforce a coherent, coordinated program and to hold cabinet secretaries accountable."

Adding organizational layers of political appointees can also restrict access to important resources, while doing nothing to reduce bureaucratic impediments.

In commenting on this problem, author Paul Light noted, "As this sediment has thickened over the decades, presidents have grown increasingly distant from the lines of government, and the front lines from them." Light added that "Presidential leadership, therefore, may reside in stripping government of the barriers to doing its job effectively. . ."

The Volcker Commission also asserted that this thickening barrier of temporary appointees between the President and career officials can undermine development of a proficient civil service by discouraging talented individuals from remaining in government service or even pursuing a career in government in the first place.

Former Attorney General Elliot Richardson put it well when he noted:

But a White House personnel assistant sees the position of deputy assistant secretary as a fourth-echelon slot. In his eyes that makes it an ideal reward for a fourth-echelon political type—a campaign advance man, or a regional political organizer. For a senior civil servant, it's irksome to see a position one has spent 20-30 years preparing for preempted by an outsider who doesn't know the difference between an audit exception and an authorizing bill.

The 2003 Volcker Commission report identified another problem aggravated by the mushrooming number of political appointees, namely the increasingly lengthy process of filling these thousands of positions. As the Commission reported, both President Bush and President Clinton were into their presidencies for many months before their leadership teams were fully in place.

The Commission noted that on average, appointees in both administrations were confirmed more than eight months after the inauguration, one-sixth of an entire presidential term. By contrast, the report noted that in the presidential transition of 1960, Kennedy appointees were confirmed, on average, 2½ months after the inauguration.

In addition to leaving vacancies among key leadership positions in government, the appointment process delays can have a detrimental effect on potential appointees. The 2003 Volcker Commission reported that, "Potential appointees sometimes decline to enter government service when confronted by this process. Others drop out along the way. But the principal impact of the modern appointments process is the delay it imposes on the staffing of new administrations."

The Clinton administration made modest reductions in the number of political appointees but the numbers have steadily increased in the past decade.

As we scour the Federal budget for wasteful or unnecessary spending, we can't overlook spending that many in Washington may well wish to retain. The test of commitment to deficit reduction is not simply to support measures that impact someone else. By reducing the number of political appointees, we can ensure a sufficient number remain to implement the policies of any administration without burdening the Federal budget with unnecessary, possibly counterproductive political jobs.

Reducing the Federal deficit and balancing the budget is something that has been central to my Senate career, from the 82 point plan I brought to the Senate in 1993 to my most recent Control Spending Now Act, which would cut the deficit by around \$500 billion.

The legislation I am introducing today reflects one of the points included on the original 82 point plan calling for streamlining various Federal agencies and reducing agency overhead costs, and it will be added to my Control Spending Now Act. I urge my colleagues to join me in reducing the deficit and reforming government.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 446—COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Mr. CASEY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 446

Whereas the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, done at Washington, London, and Moscow July 1, 1968, and entered into force on March 5, 1970, has limited the spread of the most dangerous weapons across the globe for 40 years;

Whereas the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (also known as the