

and Integrity Information System, Federal Business Opportunities Database, Federal Procurement Data System-Next Generation, Past Performance Information Retrieval System, and USAspending.gov, among others.

We must integrate these databases to ensure that contracting officials have a one-stop source for relevant contracting information. I am pleased that the General Services Administration has taken some positive steps in this direction, but any consolidation must be comprehensive. Accordingly, this bill requires the Office of Management and Budget to develop and submit a plan to integrate and consolidate the nine most important databases into a single searchable and linked network.

Another reason why suspended and debarred companies continue to receive federal contracts in error is because the unique identification system used to track companies is ineffective and in need of modernization. The Government Accountability Office has documented that the current identification system fails to adequately track subsidiaries, spin-offs, shell companies, and other related entities. This weak tracking system permits some suspended and debarred companies to access federal dollars to which they are not legally entitled.

To that end, this bill requires the Inspector General of the General Services Administration to determine whether the existing system of identifying numbers for contractors is adequately tracking Federal contractors, and develop a plan for developing and adopting a new and more robust identification system.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill. The American people entrust us with their hard-earned tax dollars, and we have a responsibility to ensure that their money is being spent appropriately.

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

S. 3325. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the waiver of the collection of copayments for telehealth and telemedicine visits of veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, today I rise to introduce legislation to amend title 38, related to this Nation's obligation to provide benefits to our veterans. Specifically, the bill I introduce today with my distinguished colleague, Senator GRASSLEY of Iowa will waive collection of copayments for telehealth and telemedicine visits for veterans.

More than 42,000 veterans are receiving care in their homes, enrolled in the Veterans Health Administration, VHA, Telemedicine program as one form of treatment. In Alaska, as of March 2010, there were 226 veterans receiving this service. Just over 100 of those live in rural Alaska.

Home Telehealth programs provide needed care for the 2-3 percent of veterans who account for 30 percent or

more of agency resources. These men and women are frequent clinic attendees and often require urgent hospital admissions. VHA programs have demonstrated reduced hospital admissions and clinic and emergency room visits, and contribute to an improved quality of life for our veterans.

For no group of veterans is this service more important than for those who live in rural and remote Alaska. Telemedicine has become an increasingly integral component in addressing the needs of veterans residing in rural and remote areas, and is critical to ensuring they have proper access to health care, especially in rural areas.

While the VHA is saving taxpayers money by using telemedicine, currently all telemedicine visits require veterans receiving these treatments to make copayments. My legislation would implement a simple fix. It would waive the required copayments—sometimes up to \$50.00 per visit—to lessen the burden on our veterans, who have sacrificed in service to our great Nation. I believe that waiving these fees may encourage more veterans to take advantage of VHA's telehealth programs, which can be a godsend for rural veterans with few other viable options.

For rural veterans in Alaska, who have to travel by small float planes or boats or even snow machines to get to the nearest clinic for monitoring of their diabetes, high blood pressure, or other chronic conditions, Congress can go a long way in repaying this Nation's debt to our veterans by passing this legislation.

The VHA plans to expand Home Telehealth for weight management, substance abuse, mild traumatic brain injury, dementia, and palliative care, as well as enabling veterans to use mobile devices to access care. I would hate to see these vital services go unused by veterans living in remote Alaskan villages because of the cost of copayments. But, this is not primarily about saving veterans money. This is about the Federal Government doing what is good for our veterans. The monetary benefits for veterans are a plus.

Basically, this legislation will amend title 38 to authorize the waiver of the collection of copayments for telehealth and telemedicine visits of veterans by giving the Secretary the authority to do so.

In closing, I must say it is an honor for me to serve as a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. I feel very privileged to be involved with policy formation that helps our veterans, and indeed to be at the same table as the distinguished chairman of the committee, a veteran of World War II himself, Senator DANIEL AKAKA, who throughout his service in Congress has been a true advocate for our veterans. I appreciate the guidance he has provided me, and the assistance his staff has provided mine in preparation of this legislation.

This is a bipartisan bill to address an issue with no partisan connection. I

strongly encourage my colleagues to join Senator GRASSLEY and me in co-sponsoring this legislation, and I urge expeditious consideration of the legislation to address a growing need for our rural veterans.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3860. Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. GREGG, and Mr. JOHANNES) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3739 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN)) to the bill S. 3217, to promote the financial stability of the United States by improving accountability and transparency in the financial system, to end "too big to fail", to protect the American taxpayer by ending bailouts, to protect consumers from abusive financial services practices, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3861. Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. GREGG, Mr. CORKER, and Mr. JOHANNES) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3739 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN)) to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3862. Ms. COLLINS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3863. Ms. COLLINS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3739 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN)) to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3864. Ms. COLLINS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3739 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN)) to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3865. Mr. GREGG (for himself and Mr. JOHANNES) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3739 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN)) to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3866. Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3867. Mr. ENSIGN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3739 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN)) to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3868. Mr. ENSIGN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3739 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN)) to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3869. Mr. ENSIGN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3787 submitted by Mr. BROWN of Ohio (for himself and Mr. KAUFMAN) and intended to be proposed to the amendment SA 3739 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN)) to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3870. Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, and Mr. BROWNBACK) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3739 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN)) to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3871. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment

SA 3739 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN)) to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3872. Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts (for himself, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. GREGG) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3739 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN)) to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3873. Mr. DEMINT (for himself and Mr. COBURN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3874. Mr. PRYOR (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. TESTER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3739 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN)) to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3875. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3775 submitted by Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) and intended to be proposed to the amendment SA 3739 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN)) to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3876. Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. BURRIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3739 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN)) to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3877. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3739 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN)) to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3878. Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, and Mr. HARKIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3739 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN)) to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3879. Ms. COLLINS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3739 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN)) to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3880. Mr. BYRD (for himself and Mr. ROCKEFELLER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3739 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN)) to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3881. Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3739 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN)) to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3882. Mr. CORKER (for himself, Mr. GREGG, Mr. SHELBY, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. LEMIEUX, and Mr. COBURN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3739 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN)) to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3883. Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. PRYOR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3739 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN)) to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3884. Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. KAUFMAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. FEINGOLD, and Mr. SANDERS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3739 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN)) to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3885. Mrs. HUTCHISON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3739 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN)) to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3886. Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Mr. BYRD) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3739 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN)) to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3887. Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. GREGG, Mr. CORKER, and Mr. JOHANNES) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3739 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN)) to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3888. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3889. Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3739 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN)) to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3890. Mr. BAYH (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3739 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN)) to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3891. Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3892. Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. REID, Mr. BROWNBAC, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. CORKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3739 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN)) to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3893. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3739 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN)) to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3894. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3739 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN)) to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3895. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3896. Mr. GREGG (for himself, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, and Mr. KERRY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3739 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN)) to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3897. Mr. DORGAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3739 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN)) to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3898. Mr. ENSIGN proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3733 proposed by Mr. BROWN of Ohio (for himself, Mr. KAUFMAN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. BURRIS) to the amendment SA 3739 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN)) to the bill S. 3217, supra.

SA 3899. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3739 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD

(for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN)) to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3900. Mr. BINGAMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3739 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN)) to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3901. Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. BROWNBAC) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3902. Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. FEINGOLD) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3903. Mr. CHAMBLISS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3739 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN)) to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3904. Mr. CHAMBLISS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3739 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN)) to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3905. Mr. CHAMBLISS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3739 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN)) to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3906. Mr. CHAMBLISS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3739 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN)) to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3907. Mr. CHAMBLISS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3739 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN)) to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3908. Mr. CHAMBLISS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3739 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN)) to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3909. Mr. CHAMBLISS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3739 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN)) to the bill S. 3217, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 3860.** Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. GREGG, and Mr. JOHANNES) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3739 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN)) to the bill S. 3217, to promote the financial stability of the United States by improving accountability and transparency in the financial system, to end "too big to fail", to protect the American taxpayer by ending bailouts, to protect consumers from abusive financial services practices, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1086, strike line 3 and all that follows through "Not" on page 1090, line 9, and insert the following: