

S. 1603

At the request of Mr. BROWN of Ohio, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1603, a bill to amend section 484B of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for tuition reimbursement and loan forgiveness to students who withdraw from an institution of higher education to serve in the uniformed services, and for other purposes.

S. 3034

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3034, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to strike medals in commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States and the establishment of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum at the World Trade Center.

S. 3079

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3079, a bill to assist in the creation of new jobs by providing financial incentives for owners of commercial buildings and multifamily residential buildings to retrofit their buildings with energy efficient building equipment and materials and for other purposes.

S. 3150

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3150, a bill to increase the mileage reimbursement rate for members of the armed services during permanent change of station and to authorize the transportation of additional motor vehicles of members on change of permanent station to or from nonforeign areas outside the continental United States.

S. 3317

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 3317, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2010 through 2014 to promote long-term, sustainable rebuilding and development in Haiti, and for other purposes.

S. 3339

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3339, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a reduced rate of excise tax on beer produced domestically by certain small producers.

S. 3371

At the request of Mrs. McCASKILL, the names of the Senator from North

Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3371, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve access to mental health care counselors under the TRICARE program, and for other purposes.

S. 3409

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3409, a bill to make certain adjustments to the price analysis of propane prepared by the Secretary of Commerce.

S. 3500

At the request of Mr. BROWN of Ohio, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3500, a bill to provide funds to States, units of general local government, and community-based organizations to save and create local jobs through the retention, restoration, or expansion of services needed by local communities, and for other purposes.

S. 3521

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3521, a bill to provide for the reestablishment of a domestic rare earths materials production and supply industry in the United States, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4443

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4443 intended to be proposed to H.R. 5297, an act to create the Small Business Lending Fund Program to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to make capital investments in eligible institutions in order to increase the availability of credit for small businesses, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for small business job creation, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4449

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4449 intended to be proposed to H.R. 5297, an act to create the Small Business Lending Fund Program to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to make capital investments in eligible institutions in order to increase the availability of credit for small businesses, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for small business job creation, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4464

At the request of Mr. DEMINT, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4464 intended to be proposed to H.R. 5297, an act to create the Small Business Lending Fund Program to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to make capital investments

in eligible institutions in order to increase the availability of credit for small businesses, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for small business job creation, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4471

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4471 intended to be proposed to H.R. 5297, an act to create the Small Business Lending Fund Program to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to make capital investments in eligible institutions in order to increase the availability of credit for small businesses, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for small business job creation, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. AKAKA:

S. 3609. A bill to extend the temporary authority for performance of medical disability examinations by contract physicians for the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I am pleased to introduce legislation that would extend the Department of Veterans Affairs' authority to use contract physicians to perform medical disability examinations.

The VA continues to struggle to compensate disabled veterans quickly and accurately. While the Administration and Congress work to produce long-term, systemic solutions to this challenge, the reality is that we also need short-term solutions to most effectively leverage available resources. One such tool, which has helped VA better serve veterans, is the use of contract physicians for medical disability examinations.

In order to determine the type and severity of disabilities of veterans filing for VA compensation or pension benefits, VA often requires thorough medical disability examinations. Because these examinations form the basis of disability ratings, their accurate and timely completion is essential. In recent years, the demand for medical disability examinations has increased beyond the number of requests that VA's in-house system was designed to accommodate. This rise in demand is due to an increase in the complexity of disability claims, a rise in the number of disabilities claimed by veterans, and changes in eligibility requirements for disability benefits.

In 1996, in Public Law 104-275, the Veterans' Benefits Improvements Act of 1996, VA was authorized to carry out a pilot program of contract disability examinations through ten VA regional offices using amounts available for payment of compensation and pensions. During the initial pilot program,

one contractor performed all contract examinations at the ten selected regional offices. The pilot was deemed a success, with general satisfaction reported from all stakeholders.

Subsequently, in 2003, in Public Law 108-183, the Veterans Benefits Act of 2003, VA was given additional, time-limited authority to contract for disability examinations using other appropriated funds. That initial authority was extended until December 31, 2010, by Public Law 110-389, the Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2008. VA continues to report high demand for compensation and pension examinations, and satisfaction with the contracted exams.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation that will allow the extension of VA's authority to utilize qualified non-VA doctors for two additional years, until December 31, 2012.

Should we not authorize a temporary extension of VA's authority to use contract physicians, it will further contribute to the Department's pending claims inventory, which is not a result any of us would want for ill and injured veterans.

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. 3609

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR PERFORMANCE OF MEDICAL DISABILITY EXAMINATIONS BY CONTRACT PHYSICIANS.

Section 704(c) of the Veterans Benefits Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-183; 38 U.S.C. 5101 note) is amended by striking "December 31, 2010" and inserting "December 31, 2012".

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. KERRY):

S. 3610. A bill to require a study on spectrum occupancy and use; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today, along with Senator KERRY, to introduce comprehensive spectrum reform legislation to modernize our Nation's radio spectrum planning, management, and coordination activities. Taking this corrective action will allow us to meet the future telecommunications needs of all spectrum users. For consumers, these fixes will lead to additional choices, greater innovation, lower prices, and more reliable services.

Over the past year, there has been growing concern about a looming radio spectrum crisis. It is not without reason—there has been an explosion of growth and innovation with spectrum-based services over the past decade. In particular, the cellular industry has been a prominent driver of this expansion. Currently, there are more than 276 million wireless subscribers in the U.S., and American consumers use

more than 6.4 billion minutes of air time per day.

While the foundation for wireless services has been voice communication, more subscribers are utilizing it for broadband. According to the Pew Research Center, 56 percent of adult Americans have accessed the Internet via a wireless device. ABI Research forecasts there will be 150 million mobile broadband subscribers by 2014—a 2,900 percent increase from 2007. Spectrum is so important the Federal Communications Commission, FCC, has made it a major focal point of its National Broadband Plan in order to meet the growing broadband demands of consumers and businesses alike.

There are constraints however—spectrum is a finite resource—and we cannot manufacture new spectrum. Making matters worse, the government's current spectrum management framework is inefficient and has not kept up with technological advancements. As evidence, the Government Accountability Office, in a series of reports, concluded "the current structure and management of spectrum use in the U.S. does not encourage the development and use of some spectrum efficient technologies."

The legislation we introduce today fixes the fundamental deficiencies that exist in our policy and spectrum management and promotes efforts to improve spectrum efficiency. Specifically, the Spectrum Measurement and Policy Reform Act tasks the FCC and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, NTIA, to perform much needed spectrum measurements to determine actual usage and occupancy rates. This data will assist policymakers and the public in making informed decisions about future spectrum uses. Also required is a cost-benefit analysis of spectrum relocation opportunities to move certain incumbent users and services to more efficient spectrum bands. Many legacy wireless services could employ newer technologies to provide more efficient use of spectrum.

In addition, my bill requires greater collaboration between the FCC and NTIA on spectrum policy and management related issues, implementation of spectrum sharing and reuse programs, as well as more market-based incentives to promote efficient spectrum use. It also sets a deadline for the creation of the National Strategic Spectrum Plan, which will provide a long-term vision for domestic spectrum use and strategies to meet those needs. While the National Broadband Plan touches on several of these areas, this legislation will provide greater assistance in developing a 21st Century comprehensive spectrum policy necessary to meet the future spectrum needs of all users.

It should be noted that the Spectrum Measurement and Policy Reform Act is intended to complement the National Broadband Plan and the recently announced Presidential Memorandum in

promoting more efficient use of spectrum and ensuring that the proper framework is in place to meet America's future telecommunications needs. But it also encourages greater focus on other areas outside the Plan or Memorandum by promoting technological innovation and more robust spectrum management. For example, a technology known as femtocell, that can increase capacity by offloading wireless traffic onto broadband wireline networks, wasn't mentioned once in the National Broadband Plan even though Cisco's Virtual Network Index indicated that at least 23 percent of smartphone traffic could be offloaded onto fixed wireline networks by 2014 through femtocells and dual-mode phones. These technologies and spectrum management practices such as spectrum sharing and reuse need to be fully explored and this legislation will assist in doing that.

Senator KERRY and I envision this legislation as a starting point to initiate an ongoing discussion about how to make the best use of this national asset and, in turn, encourage innovation and unleash opportunity. We look forward to continuing to work with all stakeholders as this bill advances.

Our Nation's competitiveness, economy, and national security demand that we allocate the necessary attention to this policy shortcoming—it is the only way we will be able to avert a looming spectrum crisis and continue to realize the boundless benefits of spectrum-based services. That is why I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join Senator KERRY and me in supporting this critical legislation.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 3612. A bill to amend the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park Establishment Act to expand the boundary of the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park in the State of Vermont, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today I am pleased to join my colleague and good friend Senator SANDERS to introduce the boundary expansion of the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park in the State of Vermont. This amendment will add 159 acres and several historic farmstead structures to the 555-acre National Park.

This park is an extraordinary place in Vermont where a unique and enduring connection has been forged between the land and its inhabitants. The picturesque and historic landscape of the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park is nestled in the rolling hills near Woodstock, in Vermont's Windsor County. It is a small park with the powerful mission of recognizing and continuing the legacy of three generations of stewardship thought, and stewardship in action. The successive owners of this estate,

for whom the park is named, were each in their own right giants of conservation ideas and practice. This legislation will expand the park's land area to help our generation and future generations to better fulfill and carry forward its mission.

The boyhood home of George Perkins Marsh, one of America's first conservationists, and later the home of Frederick Billings, the property was given to the American people by its most recent owners, Laurance S. and Mary F. Rockefeller. The park was created by an Act of Congress and signed into law by President George Bush on August 26, 1992. It is a living symbol of America's conservation ethic. The Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park tells a story of conservation history and the evolving nature of land stewardship in America.

The park puts the idea of conservation stewardship into a modern context, interpreting the idea of place and the ways in which people can balance natural resource conservation with the requirements of our 21st Century world. It is also a repository for the histories of these three American families. Visitors can tour the mansion and gardens and learn more about conservation by hiking in the sustainably managed forest, and they can visit the land stewardship exhibit at the Carriage Barn Visitor Center. The park operates in partnership with The Woodstock Foundation and the adjacent Billings Farm and Museum—a working dairy farm and a museum of agricultural and rural life that offers visitors the opportunity to experience both farm and forest landscapes, in side-by-side settings.

This new legislation would expand the boundaries of the park to incorporate the neighboring King Farm. The land and structures of this historic Woodstock farm will allow the National Park Service to expand the scope and delivery of its telling of the conservation story. The farm will provide a setting for programs in sustainable agriculture and a venue for community groups and others to undertake related projects and educational opportunities activities that have been limited in the past by the sensitivity of the historic structures constituting the Rockefeller estate. Model forestry activities and the trail network will also be enhanced through this boundary expansion.

This legislation also formally establishes the Conservation Studies Institute within the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park. The Institute has evolved within the National Park Service over the past decade to enhance leadership in conservation throughout the National Park Service and to facilitate stewardship partnerships in local communities. It is through these partnerships that the Institute inspires collaborative conservation to engage communities and help them build their vision for the future. The park, the Institute and their

Vermont setting are a great fit and a valuable setting in which to offer prototypes for conservation and sustainable practices on so many fronts.

A Vermont author and professor, John Elder, said this at the park's dedication on June 5th 1998:

There is a mandate to invent an entirely new kind of park. It must be one where the human stories and the natural history are intertwined; where the relatively small acreage serves as an educational resource for the entire National Park Service and a seedbed for American environmental thought; and where the legacy of American conservation and its future enter into dialogue, generating a new environmental paradigm for our day.

This is a unique opportunity to enhance the mission of the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park and its service to the American people.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 585—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF AUGUST 2 THROUGH AUGUST 8, 2010, AS “NATIONAL CONVENIENT CARE CLINIC WEEK,” AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF RAISING AWARENESS OF THE NEED FOR ACCESSIBLE AND COST-EFFECTIVE HEALTH CARE OPTIONS TO COMPLEMENT THE TRADITIONAL HEALTH CARE MODEL

Mr. INOUE submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 585

Whereas convenient care clinics are health care facilities located in high-traffic retail outlets that provide affordable and accessible care to patients who might otherwise be delayed or unable to schedule an appointment with a traditional primary care provider;

Whereas millions of people in the United States do not have a primary care provider, and there is a worsening primary care shortage that will prevent many people from obtaining 1 in the future;

Whereas convenient care clinics have provided an accessible alternative for more than 15,000,000 people in the United States since the first clinic opened in 2000, continue to expand rapidly, and as of June 2010 consist of approximately 1,100 clinics in 35 States;

Whereas convenient care clinics follow rigid industry-wide quality of care and safety standards;

Whereas convenient care clinics are staffed by highly qualified health care providers, including advanced practice nurses, physician assistants, and physicians;

Whereas convenient care clinicians all have advanced education in providing quality health care for common episodic ailments including cold and flu, skin irritation, and muscle strains or sprains, and can also provide immunizations, physicals, and preventive health screening;

Whereas convenient care clinics are proven to be a cost-effective alternative to similar treatment obtained in physician offices, urgent care, or emergency departments; and

Whereas convenient care clinics complement traditional medical service providers by providing extended weekday and

weekend hours without the need for an appointment, short wait times, and visits that generally last only 15 to 20 minutes: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of August 2 through August 8, 2010 as “National Convenient Care Clinic Week”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Convenient Care Clinic Week to raise awareness of the need for accessible and cost-effective health care options to complement the traditional health care model;

(3) recognizes the obstacles many people in the United States face in accessing the traditional medical home model of health care;

(4) encourages the use of convenient care clinics as a complimentary alternative to the medical home model of health care; and

(5) calls on the States to support the establishment of convenient care clinics so that more people in the United States will have access to the cost-effective and necessary emergent and preventive services provided in the clinics.

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize all of the providers who work in retail-based Convenient Care Clinics in a Resolution to designate August 2 through August 8, 2010, as National Convenient Care Clinic Week. National Convenient Care Clinic Week will provide a national platform from which to promote the pivotal services offered by the more than 1,100 retail-based convenient care clinics in the United States.

Today, thousands of nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and physicians provide care in convenient care clinics. At a time when Americans are more and more challenged by the inaccessibility and high costs of health care, convenient care offers a vital high-quality primary care alternative.

This resolution will help pave the way for this effort. I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this tribute to Convenient Care Clinics.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4484. Mr. KOHL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4402 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. REID)) to the bill H.R. 5297, to create the Small Business Lending Fund Program to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to make capital investments in eligible institutions in order to increase the availability of credit for small businesses, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for small business job creation, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4485. Mr. PRYOR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4402 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. REID)) to the bill H.R. 5297, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4486. Mr. PRYOR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4402 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. REID)) to the bill H.R. 5297, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4487. Mr. PRYOR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4402 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. REID)) to the bill H.R. 5297, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.