(Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3673, a bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to repeal certain limitations on tax health care benefits.

S. 3709

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3709, a bill to amend the Public Health Services Act and the Social Security Act to extend health information technology assistance eligibility to behavioral health, mental health, and substance abuse professionals and facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 3767

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3767, a bill to establish appropriate criminal penalties for certain knowing violations relating to food that is misbranded or adulterated.

S. 3786

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3786, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit the Secretary of the Treasury to issue prospective guidance clarifying the employment status of individuals for purposes of employment taxes and to prevent retroactive assessments with respect to such clarifications.

S. CON. RES. 39

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. CON. RES. 63

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 63, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that Taiwan should be accorded observer status in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

S. RES. 619

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 619, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the Senate of each new Congress is not bound by the Rules of previous Senates.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 3794. A bill to amend chapter 5 of title 40, United States Code, to include organizations whose membership comprises substantially veterans as recipient organizations for the donation of Federal surplus personal property through State agencies; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today, I am introducing bipartisan legislation to add military veterans to the list of groups eligible to receive excess property donations from the Federal Government. The sacrifices that members of our armed forces make every day for us and our country cannot be overstated, and I welcome any opportunity to recognize their services. While this bill is a small token, it is another effort to give back to our military veterans. I encourage the Senate to act swiftly and pass this bill.

The FOR VETS Act will enable military veterans to receive surplus goods donations through the Federal Government's property distribution program. The types of property donated through this program include computers, trucks, snowmobiles, home appliances, and electronics. These are items that would be of good use to our military veterans, and which they should have the opportunity to claim.

The administrator of General Services oversees this property distribution program, which currently donates property to medical institutions, providers of assistance to the homeless, universities, and child care facilities, among others. Given the surplus of available goods, military veterans' groups are simply being added into this pool of recipients for goods that might otherwise go unused.

I am pleased to be joined by the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee Ranking Member, Senator COLLINS, in sponsoring this legislation. This is a bipartisan effort, as legislation to support our veterans should always be, and I hope Congress will come together to promptly send this legislation to the President to be signed into law.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent 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. 3794

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Formerly Owned Resources for Veterans to Express Thanks for Service Act of 2010'' or ''FOR VETS Act of 2010''.

SEC. 2. RECIPIENTS OF CERTAIN FEDERAL SURPLUS PERSONAL PROPERTY.

Section 549(c)(3)(B) of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in clause (viii), by striking ''or'' after the semicolon;

(2) in clause (ix), by striking the period and inserting ''; or''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(x) an organization whose membership comprises substantially veterans (as defined under section 101 of title 38).''.

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

S. 3798. A bill to authorize appropriations of United States assistance to help eliminate conditions in foreign prisons and other detention facilities that do not meet minimum human standards of health, sanitation, and safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am very pleased to join today with the Senator from Kansas, Senator BROWNBACK, in introducing a piece of legislation that has already attracted broad support from across the social and political spectrum.

This bill, titled the Foreign Prison Conditions Improvement Act of 2010, seeks to address a much neglected, global human rights problem—the inhumane treatment of people in foreign prisons and other detention facilities.

On any given day, millions of people are languishing in foreign prisons, many awaiting trial not yet having been formally charged or proven guilty of anything, deprived of their freedom for years longer than they could have been sentenced to prison if convicted. Others convicted of crimes, often after woefully unfair trials, including for nothing more than peacefully expressing political or religious beliefs or defending human rights. Regardless of their status they have one thing in common. They are deprived of the most basic rights and necessities—safe water, adequate food, essential medical care, personal safety, and dignity.

Anyone who has been inside one of these facilities, or seen photographs or the press reports of what they are like, understands that I am talking about the mistreatment of human beings in ways that are reminiscent of the Dark Ages.

A few examples are all that are needed to illustrate the point. In Haiti's National Penitentiary before the January 12th earthquake, more than 4,000 prisoners were confined in a space built for less than 900. Many did not have room to lie down and had to sleep standing up. Sanitation was practically non-existent. Deadly contagious diseases were rampant. The overwhelming majority of inmates had never been formally charged, never seen a lawyer or a judge. The earthquake damaged the prison and the prison guards fled, leaving the inmates to fend for themselves without food or water. They managed to get out, but the squalid facility is quickly filling up again. Today I am told the conditions there are worse than ever.

A recent newspaper article described how in Benin, in West Africa, maggots digest the bodies of dead prisoners. The skin of prisoners is ragged from the extraction of fly larvae, a scourge that is symptomatic of the deplorable conditions. Many inmates suffer from tuberculosis, scabies, parasites, lung infections or other illnesses. The prison in

Abomey, located in southern Benin, was built in 1904 to house a maximum of 150 prisoners. These days, more than 1,000 are reportedly confined there.

It is common in prisons from Central America to Central Africa to Central Asia for inmates to be severely malnourished and to go for months without being able to wash. Many prisoners depend for survival on food brought to them by their relatives. In many countries individuals awaiting trial, young and old, are housed together with convicted, violent criminals.

Prisoners and other detainees in many countries are also routinely victimized by poorly trained, abusive guards, who are virtually unsupervised and unaccountable to any higher authority. Sexual abuse of men, women and children is common.

A government commission in Cameroon reported that an average of five prisoners die per month in a prison there, simply from lack of proper medical care. Inmates in many countries suffer from HIV/AIDS and other illnesses, in prisons with no medical records, where doctors do not enter. Prisoners intentionally cut or otherwise harm themselves in the hope of receiving medical attention for life-threatening illnesses. If and when they are released, they infect the local population.

A recent New York Times article described how in Zambia prisoners are punished by being stripped naked and held in solitary confinement in small, windowless cells, sometimes for days on end, in ankle-to-calf-high water contaminated with their own excrement. It is like something out of The Count of Monte Cristo, only worse because it is happening in the 21st Century.

But the article went on to describe how the Zambian Prison Service completed its own internal audit, appointed a new medical director and allowed human rights workers access to its facilities.

The bill Senator BROWNBACK and I are introducing seeks to provide incentives for those kinds of improvements. Our bill would do the following:

First, it calls attention to this long ignored problem. Most people know little if anything about what goes on inside foreign prisons, and many would prefer not to know.

Second, it sets forth minimum standards for the elimination of inhumane conditions in foreign prisons and other detention facilities, such as human waste facilities that are sanitary and accessible, and adequate ventilation, food, and safe drinking water.

Third, it requires the Secretary of State to report annually on those countries that receive United States assistance that do not meet minimum standards for the elimination of inhumane conditions but are making significant efforts to comply, and those that are not making such efforts.

Fourth, it encourages the Secretary and the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development to assist countries that are making significant efforts to eliminate inhumane conditions. And for those that are not, it requires the Secretary to enter into negotiations with such governments to eliminate inhumane conditions. It authorizes the Secretary and the Administrator to restructure, reprogram, or reduce assistance, or to furnish or deny U.S. visas to the officials of the government of such a country, if doing so would help achieve that goal.

The bill also provides for training of Foreign Service Officers, and creates a new full time equivalent Deputy Assistant Secretary position at the Department of State's Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor to monitor foreign prison conditions, which has long been needed.

Finally, it authorizes the expenditure of funds to implement the bill.

Once enacted, the Foreign Prison Conditions Improvement Act of 2010 will help foreign governments ensure that prisoners in their countries are treated as any people deprived of their freedom should be—as human beings, with dignity, in safety, and provided the basic necessities of life.

In countries around the world, the United States is helping to reform justice systems and strengthen the rule of law. No justice system can claim to deliver justice if prisoners and other detainees are treated like animals, or worse. By helping to change attitudes, and showing how with relatively little money, conditions in a prison can be dramatically improved, we can help advance the cause of justice more broadly.

Millions of people around the world still look to the United States as a defender of justice. This bill will further that goal, and it reflects the best instincts of the American people.

This bill has already been endorsed by a wide range of groups, including the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, Human Rights First, Human Rights Watch, International Justice Mission, Open Society Policy Center, Penal Reform International, Prison Fellowship, Jewish Council for Public Affairs, National American Religious Liberty Association, United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society, National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, Disciples Justice Action Network, and the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bandáís of the United States.

An identical bill is being introduced today in the House of Representatives by Representatives WILLIAM DELAHUNT and JOSEPH PITTS, so this is a bipartisan, bicameral effort.

I want to thank Senator BROWNBACK, and his staff, who have been extremely helpful in the drafting and introduction of this bill. At a time when some people seem to get satisfaction from calling Washington broken, this is a tangible example of how two Senators, of different parties, whose political views often differ, can work together in furtherance of a just cause.

By Mr. AKAKA:

S. 3801. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the maximum age for children eligible for medical care under the CHAMPVA program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I am proposing a needed adjustment to current eligibility requirements for children who receive health care under the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

CHAMPVA, established in 1973 within VA, provides health care services to dependents and survivors of certain veterans. CHAMPVA enrollment has grown steadily over the years and, as of fiscal year 2009, covers nearly 336,300 unique beneficiaries. Servicemembers continue to deploy and return home from Afghanistan and Iraq, and CHAMPVA plays a vital role in caring for veterans' loved ones.

Under the current law, a dependent child loses eligibility for CHAMPVA upon turning 18 years old, unless the child is enrolled in school on a full time basis. Also, after losing full-time status at school, or upon turning 23 years old, an eligible child of a veteran would lose eligibility.

With the passage earlier this year of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Public Law 111–148, many veterans' families have expressed concern regarding their own children's health care coverage. The PPACA contains a provision that extends health insurance coverage to dependent children until age 26. I believe it is only fair to afford children who are CHAMPVA beneficiaries the same eligibility as dependent children whose parents have private sector coverage. Though this Congress is in its final month, we need to open the discussion on this issue now so that, if we must wait until next year to act, we can do so quickly.

My hope in introducing this legislation is to ensure that CHAMPVA recipients, without regard to their type of coverage, student status, or other limitation, are eligible for health care coverage under their parent's plan in the same way as their peers. I urge my colleagues to support this necessary modification.

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. 3801

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

SECTION 1. INCREASE OF MAXIMUM AGE FOR CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR MEDICAL CARE UNDER CHAMPVA PROGRAM.

(a) INCREASE.—Subsection (c) of section 1781 of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(c)(1) Notwithstanding clauses (i) and (iii) of section 101(4)(A) of this title and except as provided in paragraph (2), for purposes of this section, a child who is eligible for benefits under subsection (a) shall remain eligible for benefits under this section until the child's 26th birthday, regardless of the child's marital status.

''(2) Before January 1, 2014, paragraph (1) shall not apply to a child who is eligible to enroll in an eligible employer-sponsored plan (as defined in section 5000A(f)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986).

''(3) This subsection shall not be construed to limit eligibility for coverage of a child described in section 101(4)(A)(ii) of this title.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Such subsection, as so amended, shall apply with respect to medical care provided on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 626—ACKNOWLEDGING AND CONGRATULATING MIAMI DADE COLLEGE ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SERVICE TO THE STUDENTS AND RESIDENTS OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA

Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself and Mr. LEMIEUX) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 626

Whereas Miami Dade College opened its doors in 1960 as an institution of higher education for the residents of Miami-Dade County, Florida;

Whereas Miami Dade College became the first integrated junior college in the State of Florida, leading the way for other institutions to adopt policies of offering a higher education to persons of all races and ethnicities;

Whereas Miami Dade College has 1 of the most diverse student populations in the United States, with students from 178 countries, speaking 86 languages;

Whereas Miami Dade College has the largest enrollment of any institution of higher education in the United States, welcoming nearly 170,000 students annually;

Whereas Miami Dade College offers more than 300 major areas of study, providing educational and workforce opportunities for students seeking associate and bachelor degrees, as well as short-term certifications in critical areas of study;

Whereas Miami Dade College provides an affordable, comprehensive higher education to individuals of all incomes and backgrounds;

Whereas 52 percent of the students attending Miami Dade College are the first in their families to attend college;

Whereas 55 percent of the students attending Miami Dade College receive Pell Grants;

Whereas Miami Dade College ranks first in the United States in the amount of Pell Grant funds awarded to public institutions of higher education;

Whereas Miami Dade College is 1 of only 40 community colleges nationwide to be named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll;

Whereas Miami Dade College is a leader in cultural programming;

Whereas the Miami International Book Fair, which is sponsored by Miami Dade College, is the largest literary event in the United States;

Whereas the Miami International Film Festival, which is sponsored by Miami Dade College, is world-renowned;

Whereas Miami Dade College is the home of the Freedom Tower, a National Historic Landmark;

Whereas Miami Dade College adheres to the guiding principle of the College to change lives through the opportunity of education; and

Whereas 2010 marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Miami Dade College: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate acknowledges and congratulates Miami Dade College on the occasion of its 50th anniversary of academic excellence and service to the residents of the State of Florida.

SENATE RESOLUTION 627—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 16, 2010, AS ''THE AMERICAN LEGION DAY''

Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. LINCOLN, and Mr. BURR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 627

Whereas, on September 16, 1919, Congress issued to the American Legion a Federal charter as a wartime veterans service organization;

Whereas the American Legion remains active in communities at the national, State, and local levels;

Whereas members of the American Legion (commonly referred to as ''Legionnaires'') provide millions of hours of volunteer service to medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs and State homes for veterans throughout the United States;

Whereas the American Legion continues to sponsor activities for children and youth, including the National Oratorical Contest, Boy Scouts, American Legion Baseball, Boys State, and Boys Nation;

Whereas the American Legion awards millions of dollars in college scholarships to young men and women;

Whereas the American Legion National Emergency Fund provides financial assistance to Legionnaires displaced by natural disasters;

Whereas the American Legion Family Support Network provides assistance to members of the Armed Forces of the United States and their families;

Whereas the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation has provided millions of dollars to programs focused on youth in the United States, including the Special Olympics and the Children's Miracle Network;

Whereas the American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance provides grants to veterans with children experiencing financial hardships;

Whereas the American Legion remains second to none in steadfast support of strong national defense;

Whereas the American Legion supports maintaining a viable and principled foreign relations agenda;

Whereas the American Legion is a staunch advocate for the principal missions of the Department of Veterans Affairs;

Whereas the American Legion wrote the original draft of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (58 Stat. 284, chapter 268), commonly referred to as the ''G. I. Bill of Rights'';

Whereas the American Legion continues to support employment programs and opportunities for veterans; and

Whereas Legionnaires believe that a veteran's service to the United States continues long after the veteran is honorably discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates September 16, 2010, as ''The American Legion Day''.

SENATE RESOLUTION 628—RECOGNIZING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. BENNETT) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 628

Whereas the National Book Festival is a great national treasure that fosters the joy of reading;

Whereas the first National Book Festival held on September 8, 2001, was organized and sponsored by the Library of Congress and hosted by First Lady Laura Bush;

Whereas the first National Book Festival, held on the grounds of the Library of Congress and the United States Capitol, was such a success that it has become an annual event;

Whereas the National Book Festival has grown in popularity, in recent years bringing over 130,000 book lovers to the National Mall;

Whereas, each year, the National Book Festival has featured more than 70 award-winning and nationally known authors, illustrators, poets, and storytellers;

Whereas the National Book Festival invites readers from around the United States to celebrate books, reading, and creativity;

Whereas the National Book Festival convenes the ''Pavilion of the States'' which includes representatives from all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the territories and possessions of the United States who discuss and distribute materials about their respective reading and literacy promotion programs;

Whereas this year the Festival has reached a milestone for both the Library of Congress and the Nation; and

Whereas the 10th National Book Festival will be held on September 25, 2010, on the National Mall, and supported by Honorary Co-Chairs President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes and emphasizes the important historic and ongoing role of the National Book Festival; and

(2) encourages the celebration of ''A Decade of Words and Wonder'' on Saturday, September, 25, 2010.

SENATE RESOLUTION 629—RECOGNIZING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH AND CELEBRATING THE HERITAGE AND CULTURE OF LATINOS IN THE UNITED STATES AND THEIR IMMENSE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NATION

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. REID, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BINGAMAN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BURRIS, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. CASEY, Mr. LEMIEUX, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. LUGAR) submitted the