

out," it is the sense of the Senate that United States deterrence and flexibility is assured by a robust triad of strategic delivery vehicles. To this end, the United States is committed to accomplishing the modernization and replacement of its strategic nuclear delivery vehicles, and to ensuring the continued flexibility of United States conventional and nuclear delivery systems.

### EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. DODD for the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

\*Peter A. Diamond, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for the unexpired term of fourteen years from February 1, 2000.

\*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. COCHRAN (for himself and Mr. WICKER):

S. 3947. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the State of Mississippi 2 parcels of surplus land within the boundary of the Natchez Trace Parkway, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. KERRY):

S. 3948. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify certain rules applicable to regulated investment companies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. 3949. A bill to amend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Development Act to extend to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. 3950. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the application of a consistent Medicare part B premium for all Medicare beneficiaries for 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 3951. A bill to authorize United States participation in, and appropriations for, the United States contribution to the ninth replenishment of the resources of the Asian Development Fund and the United States subscription to the fifth general capital increase of the Asian Development Bank; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. COCHRAN (for himself and Mr. WICKER):

S. 3952. A bill to authorize the acquisition of core battlefield land at Champion Hill, Port Gibson, and Raymond for addition to Vicksburg National Military Park; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. AKAKA:

S. 3953. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide benefits for children

with spina bifida of veterans exposed to herbicides while serving in the Armed Forces during the Vietnam era outside Vietnam, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 3954. A bill to improve air cargo security; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BEGICH:

S. 3955. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize space-available travel on military aircraft for members of the reserve components, a member or former member of a reserve component who is eligible for retired pay but for age, widows and widowers of retired members, and dependents; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BEGICH:

S. 3956. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit the use of commissary and exchange facilities by former members of the Armed Forces who were retired or separated for physical disability; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 3957. A bill to establish a medical education trust fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts):

S. 3958. A bill to allow an earlier start for State health care coverage innovation waivers under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. McCASKILL:

S. 3959. A bill to eliminate the preferences and special rules for Alaska Native Corporations under the program under section 8(a) of the Small Business Act; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 3960. A bill to prevent harassment at institutions of higher education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 3961. A bill to amend the E-Government Act of 2002 (44 U.S.C. 3501 note) to reform the electronic rulemaking process; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. LUGAR):

S. 3962. A bill 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; read the first time.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. LUGAR):

S. 3963. A bill 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; read the first time.

### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. SPECTER):

S. Res. 678. A resolution congratulating the Penn State Nittany Lions for their 400th win under head football coach Joe Paterno; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GREGG (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. Res. 679. A resolution commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Weeks Law; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. BINGAMAN, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. Res. 680. A resolution supporting international tiger conservation efforts and the upcoming Global Tiger Summit in St. Petersburg, Russia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. Res. 681. A resolution designating the week of November 15 through 19, 2010, as "Global Entrepreneurship Week/USA"; considered and agreed to.

### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 325

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 325, a bill to amend section 845 of title 18, United States Code, relating to explosives, to grant the Attorney General exemption authority.

S. 446

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 446, a bill to permit the televising of Supreme Court proceedings.

S. 535

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 535, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 1216

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1216, a bill to amend the Consumer Product Safety Act to require residential carbon monoxide detectors to meet the applicable ANSI/UL standard by treating that standard as a consumer product safety rule, to encourage States to require the installation of such detectors in homes, and for other purposes.

S. 1547

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1547, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, and the United States Housing Act of 1937 to enhance and expand the assistance provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Housing and Urban Development to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness, and for other purposes.

S. 1548

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1548, a bill to improve research, diagnosis, and treatment of musculoskeletal diseases, conditions, and injuries, to conduct a longitudinal study on aging, and for other purposes.

S. 1553

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1553, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the National Future Farmers of America Organization and the 85th anniversary of the founding of the National Future Farmers of America Organization.

S. 1619

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1619, a bill to establish the Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities, to establish the Interagency Council on Sustainable Communities, to establish a comprehensive planning grant program, to establish a sustainability challenge grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 1695

At the request of Mr. BURRIS, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1695, a bill to authorize the award of a Congressional gold medal to the Montford Point Marines of World War II.

S. 1703

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1703, a bill to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian tribes.

S. 1859

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1859, a bill to reinstate Federal matching of State spending of child support incentive payments.

S. 2740

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2740, a bill to establish a comprehensive literacy program.

S. 2747

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2747, a bill to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 to provide consistent and reliable authority for, and for the funding of, the land and water conservation fund to maximize the effectiveness of the fund for future generations, and for other purposes.

S. 3036

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3036, a bill to establish the Office of the National Alzheimer's Project.

S. 3181

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 3181, a bill to protect the rights of consumers to diagnose, service, maintain, and repair their motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

S. 3183

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3183, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the nonbusiness energy property credit to roofs with pigmented coatings which meet Energy Star program requirements.

S. 3234

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3234, a bill to improve employment, training, and placement services furnished to veterans, especially those serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, and for other purposes.

S. 3260

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3260, a bill to enhance and further research into the prevention and treatment of eating disorders, to improve access to treatment of eating disorders, and for other purposes.

S. 3320

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3320, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a Pancreatic Cancer Initiative, and for other purposes.

S. 3329

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3329, a bill to provide triple credits for renewable energy on brownfields, and for other purposes.

S. 3390

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3390, a bill to end the discrimination based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity in public schools, and for other purposes.

S. 3398

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3398, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the work opportunity credit to certain recently discharged veterans.

S. 3424

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3424, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to provide further protection for puppies.

S. 3642

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3642, a bill to ensure that

the underwriting standards of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac facilitate the use of property assessed clean energy programs to finance the installation of renewable energy and energy efficiency improvements.

S. 3678

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3678, a bill to improve mental health services for members of the National Guard and Reserve deployed in connection with a contingency operation, and for other purposes.

S. 3695

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. BURRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3695, a bill to fight criminal gangs.

S. 3706

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3706, a bill to extend unemployment insurance benefits and cut taxes for businesses to create hiring incentives, and for other purposes.

S. 3709

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) 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. 3727

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3727, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to the offense of stalking.

S. 3735

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3735, a bill to amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act to improve the use of certain registered pesticides.

S. 3739

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3739, a bill to amend the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act to include bullying and harassment prevention programs.

S. 3813

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3813, a bill to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to establish a Federal renewable electricity standard, and for other purposes.

S. 3829

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3829, a bill to repeal the CLASS Act.

S. 3833

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3833, a bill to amend the National Environmental Education Act to update, streamline, and modernize that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 3842

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3842, a bill to protect crime victims' rights, to eliminate the substantial backlog of DNA samples collected from crime scenes and convicted offenders, to improve and expand the DNA testing capacity of Federal, State, and local crime laboratories, to increase research and development of new DNA testing technologies, to develop new training programs regarding the collection and use of DNA evidence, to provide post conviction testing of DNA evidence to exonerate the innocent, to improve the performance of counsel in State capital cases, and for other purposes.

S. 3846

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) were added as cosponsors of S. 3846, a bill to establish a temporary prohibition on termination coverage under the TRICARE program for age of dependents under the age of 26 years.

S. 3865

At the request of Mr. BROWN of Ohio, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3865, a bill to facilitate nationwide availability of volunteer income tax assistance for low-income and underserved populations, and for other purposes.

S. 3874

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 3874, a bill to amend the Safe Drinking Act to reduce lead in drinking water.

S. 3881

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3881, a bill to require the Secretary of State to identify individuals responsible for the detention, abuse, or death of Sergei Magnitsky or for the conspiracy to defraud the Russian Federation of taxes on corporate profits through fraudulent transactions and lawsuits against Hermitage, and to impose a visa ban and certain financial measures with respect to such individuals, until the Russian Federation has thoroughly investigated the death of

Sergei Magnitsky and brought the Russian criminal justice system into compliance with international legal standards, and for other purposes.

S. 3901

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3901, a bill to promote enforcement of immigration laws and for other purposes.

S. 3914

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. McCASKILL) were added as cosponsors of S. 3914, a bill to amend title VIII of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to require the Secretary of Education to complete payments under such title to local educational agencies eligible for such payments within 3 fiscal years.

S. 3923

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3923, a bill to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to clarify the authority of States to adopt renewable energy incentives.

S. 3924

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3924, a bill to promote transparency and accountability concerning the implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. 3925

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 3925, a bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to improve the energy efficiency of, and standards applicable to, certain appliances and equipment, and for other purposes.

S. 3928

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3928, a bill to strengthen Federal consumer product safety programs and activities with respect to commercially-marketed seafood by directing the Secretary of Commerce to coordinate with the Federal Trade Commission and other appropriate Federal agencies to strengthen and coordinate those programs and activities.

S. 3932

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPETER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3932, a bill to provide

comprehensive immigration reform, and for other purposes.

S. 3942

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 3942, a bill to amend the Arms Export Control Act to provide that certain firearms listed as curios or relics may be imported into the United States by a licensed importer without obtaining authorization from the Department of State or the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

S. 3946

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3946, a bill to repeal the expansion of information reporting requirements for payments of \$600 or more to corporations, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 63

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) 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. 676

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 676, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of American Diabetes Month.

S. RES. 677

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 677, a resolution to express the sense of the Senate regarding the importance of recycling and the inception of recycling on the National Mall.

AMENDMENT NO. 4618

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4618 intended to be proposed to S. 3454, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED  
BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. 3950. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the application of a consistent Medicare part B premium for all Medicare beneficiaries for 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS, recently announced that nearly three-quarters of Medicare enrollees will see no increase in their Medicare Part B premium in 2011.

This group of beneficiaries is protected by a "hold harmless" provision in the law for years when there is no increase in Social Security checks. As a result, these beneficiaries will continue to pay the same monthly premium of \$96.40 that they have paid since 2008.

Unfortunately, 27 percent of Medicare beneficiaries do not receive this "hold-harmless" protection and will see their monthly premiums disproportionately increase to \$115.40 to shoulder the full load for those beneficiaries who are held harmless. This represents an increase of nearly 19 percent over the past two years with no cost of living adjustment to their retirement pensions or annuities.

This inequity in the law negatively affects new Medicare enrollees, low-income beneficiaries who receive Medicare and Medicaid, higher income enrollees who already pay higher premiums, and seniors who do not receive Social Security, such as federal, state, and local government retirees.

I believe we have a responsibility to protect all Medicare beneficiaries from premium increase, especially during these tough economic times when every penny counts. A premium increase for many seniors would mean choosing between food and medicine and that's a choice they should not have to make.

That is why today I am introducing the Medicare Premium Fairness Act. This legislation would restore fairness to our Medicare system and put money in the pockets of 12 million seniors and individuals with disabilities who desperately need it. It would correct this inequity in the law by applying the "hold harmless" provision to all Medicare beneficiaries, so that no enrollee will pay a monthly premium more than \$96.40 in 2011.

The Medicare Premium Fairness Act is cosponsored by Senator DODD and Senator CASEY, both of whom have been integral to the development of this legislation. Our legislation is supported by twenty four organizations that represent retirees and senior citizens across the country. I would like to thank all of the number of organizations who have endorsed our legislation today, including the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFSCME, the National Ac-

tive and Retired Federal Employees Association, NARFE, and the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, NCPSSM.

Now is the time to protect all Medicare beneficiaries from substantial and unfair Part B premium increases next year. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate to pass the Medicare Premium Fairness Act before the end of the year.

By Mr. AKAKA:

S. 3953. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide benefits for children with spina bifida of veterans exposed to herbicides while serving in the Armed Forces during the Vietnam era outside Vietnam, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, as chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, today, I am introducing legislation that would expand an existing VA benefit program for certain children with spina bifida. These benefits are currently provided under chapter 18 of title 38, United States Code, to the natural children of veterans who were exposed to herbicides such as Agent Orange, in Vietnam or near the Demilitarized Zone, DMZ, in Korea during the Vietnam era.

Current law provides benefits for the natural children of veterans exposed to herbicides only if the veteran served in a specific location, during a specific time frame. VA reports that 1,222 children currently receive these benefits and that only 10 of these receive them based on the service of a parent who served in outside of Vietnam.

However, VA has conceded that certain veterans who worked on the perimeter of Air Force bases in Thailand outside of the locations provided in current law during the Vietnam era were exposed to herbicides. As a result, children of those veterans suffering from spina bifida are excluded from the benefits provided based solely on where the exposure occurred.

The legislation I am introducing today would correct this inequity. Because only a very small number of children whose veteran parent served outside of Vietnam currently receive benefits, I expect only a small number of children would qualify for benefits under this bill. However, it is an inequity that should be remedied.

I urge our colleagues to support this bill and provide the exact same benefit to all children who have spina bifida related to the veteran parent's exposure to herbicides regardless of the location of their parent's exposure.

By Mr. BEGICH:

S. 3955. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize space-available travel on military aircraft for members of the reserve components, a member or former member of a reserve component who is eligible for retired pay but for age, widows and widowers of retired members, and de-

pendents; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Space Available Equity Act.

Members and retirees of the National Guard and Reserve, their families, and surviving military spouses make great sacrifices for our Nation. However, too often these individuals do not receive the benefits they have earned for their service.

For instance, members of the reserve components and "gray area" retirees, National Guardsmen or Reservists eligible for retirement but under the age of 60, have limited space-available travel privileges on Department of Defense aircraft under current regulation. Their space-available travel benefits are restricted to the continental United States and are not extended to their dependents, unlike active duty members and retirees.

Surviving spouses of a military member eligible for retired pay retain no space-available travel privileges at all after the death of their spouse, despite having made a lifetime commitment to the military or in many cases, lost their loved one in war.

To correct these inequities, I am introducing the National Guard, Reserve, Gray Area Retiree, and Surviving Spouse Space-available Travel Equity Act. This bill will give these deserving individuals comprehensive and equitable space-available travel privileges on Department of Defense aircraft. The bill is endorsed by the National Guard Association of the United States.

I urge my colleagues to join me in giving parity to our reserve component members and surviving military spouses.

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. 3955

*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 "National Guard, Reserve, "Gray Area" Retiree, and Surviving Spouses Space-available Travel Equity Act of 2010".

## SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY OF RESERVE MEMBERS, GRAY-AREA RETIREES, WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS OF RETIRED MEMBERS, AND DEPENDENTS FOR SPACE-AVAILABLE TRAVEL ON MILITARY AIRCRAFT.

(a) ELIGIBILITY.—Chapter 157 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 2651 the following new section:

**"§ 2652. Space-available travel on department of defense aircraft: reserve members, reserve members eligible for retired pay but for age; widows and widowers of retired members and dependents**

**"(a) RESERVE MEMBERS.**—A member of a reserve component holding a valid Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card shall be provided transportation on Department of Defense aircraft, on a space-available basis, on the same basis as active