

By Mr. PRYOR:

S. 478. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to apply a 100 percent continuous levy to Medicare providers and certain Federal contractors with delinquent tax debt; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PRYOR:

S. 479. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to enhance authorities with regard to real property that has yet to be reported excess, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 480. A bill to temporarily expand the V nonimmigrant visa category to include Haitians whose petition for a family-sponsored immigrant visa was approved on or before January 12, 2010; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 481. 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; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BURR, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COATS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNNS, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. KYL, Mr. LEE, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 482. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to prohibit the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from promulgating any regulation concerning, taking action relating to, or taking into consideration the emission of a greenhouse gas to address climate change, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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

S. 483. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the treatment of clinical psychologists as physicians for purposes of furnishing clinical psychologist services under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. UDALL of Colorado):

S. 484. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to pay to Fort Lewis College in the State of Colorado an amount equal to the tuition charges for Indian students who are not residents of the State of Colorado; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 485. A bill to expand the boundaries of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 486. A bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to enhance protections for members of the uniformed services relating to mortgages, mortgage foreclosure, and

eviction, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MCCAIN:

S. 487. A bill to ensure that private property, public safety, and human life are protected from flood hazards that directly result from post-fire watershed conditions that are created by wildfires on Federal land; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. 488. A bill to require the FHA to equitably treat homebuyers who have repaid in full their FHA-insured mortgages, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. FRANKEN, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 489. A bill to require certain mortgagees to evaluate loans for modifications, to establish a grant program for State and local government mediation programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. AKAKA:

S. 490. 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.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. KOHL, Mr. ENZI, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BAUCUS, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. NELSON of Nebraska):

S. Res. 87. A resolution designating the year of 2012 as the "International Year of Cooperatives"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SNOWE:

S. Res. 88. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that businesses of the United States should retain the option to organize as those businesses choose, including as flow-through entities, and not be forced to reorganize as C corporations; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mr. BURR, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. BEGICH, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. KERRY, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. Res. 89. A resolution relating to the death of Frank W. Buckles, the longest surviving United States veteran of the First World War; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. Res. 90. A resolution supporting the goals of "International Women's Day" and recognizing this year's centennial anniversary of International Women's Day; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, and Mrs. HAGAN):

S. Res. 91. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. ALEXANDER):

S. Res. 92. A resolution to authorize the payment of legal expenses of Senate employees out of the contingent fund of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mr. BURR, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. BEGICH, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. KERRY, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. Con. Res. 10. A concurrent resolution authorizing the remains of Frank W. Buckles, the last surviving United States veteran of the First World War, to lie in honor in the rotunda of the Capitol; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 89

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNNS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 89, a bill to repeal the imposition of withholding on certain payments made to vendors by government entities.

S. 222

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 222, a bill to limit investor and homeowner losses in foreclosures, and for other purposes.

S. 228

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 228, a bill to preempt regulation of, action relating to, or consideration of greenhouse gases under Federal and common law on enactment of a Federal policy to mitigate climate change.

S. 242

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 242, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance the roles and responsibilities of the Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

S. 254

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 254, a bill to reduce the rape kit backlog and for other purposes.

S. 282

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 282, a bill to rescind unused earmarks.

S. 310

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 310, a bill to end unemployment payments to jobless millionaires.

S. 344

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr.

COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 344, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 387

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 387, a bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to provide flexible spending arrangements for members of uniformed services, and for other purposes.

S. 388

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 388, a bill to prohibit Members of Congress and the President from receiving pay during Government shutdowns.

S. 425

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 425, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment of permanent national surveillance systems for multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, and other neurological diseases and disorders.

S. 434

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNIS) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 434, a bill to improve and expand geographic literacy among kindergarten through grade 12 students in the United States by improving professional development programs for kindergarten through grade 12 teachers offered through institutions of higher education.

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 434, *supra*.

S. CON. RES. 4

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 4, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that an appropriate site on Chaplains Hill in Arlington National Cemetery should be provided for a memorial marker to honor the memory of the Jewish chaplains who died while on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States.

S. CON. RES. 7

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from

New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 7, a concurrent resolution supporting the Local Radio Freedom Act.

AMENDMENT NO. 133

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 133 proposed to S. 23, a bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform.

AMENDMENT NO. 135

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 135 intended to be proposed to S. 23, a bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

S. 467. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to strengthen the earned income tax credit; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, today Senator ROCKEFELLER and I are reintroducing the Strengthen the Earned Income Tax Credit Act of 2011. Since 1975, the earned income tax credit, EITC, has been an innovative tax credit which helps low-income working families. President Reagan referred to the EITC as "the best antipoverty, the best pro-family, the best job creation measure to come out of Congress." According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, the EITC lifts more children out of poverty than any other government program. It lifted 6.5 million people, including 3.3 million children, above the poverty line in 2009.

Last Congress, we were successful in making temporary improvements to the EITC by providing marriage penalty relief and increasing the credit rate for families with three or more children. Both of these provisions have been part of our legislation.

It is time for us to reexamine the EITC and determine where we can strengthen it. The Finance Committee of which I am a member has started a series of hearings on tax reform. I believe the tax code should be thoroughly reviewed to see what is working and not working and what can be made simpler. This legislation expands the EITC permanently, but as part of tax reform I would be open to changing the program. However, those currently benefiting from the EITC should not be harmed in tax reform and there should still be tax relief which encourages work and helps low-income families with children.

We need to help the low-income workers who struggle day after day trying to make ends meet. They have been left behind in the economic policies of the last eight years. We need to begin a discussion on how to help those that have been left behind. The EITC is the perfect place to start.

The Strengthen the Earned Income Tax Credit Act of 2011 strengthens the EITC by making the following changes: makes permanent marriage penalty relief; makes permanent the credit for families with three or more children; expands the credit for individuals with no children; simplifies the credit; and increases the penalty for tax preparers.

The legislation would make the marriage penalty relief included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act permanent. Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the phase-out income level for married taxpayers that file a joint return would be \$5,000 higher than the income level for unmarried filers starting in 2009 and in 2010. This level would be indexed for inflation after 2009. The Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization and Job Creation Act of 2010 extended this provision through 2012. Without this provision, many single individuals that marry find themselves faced with a reduction in their EITC. In Massachusetts, approximately 100,500 children a year benefit from the EITC because of this provision.

Second, the legislation makes permanent the credit for families with three or more children. Under prior law, the credit amount is based on one child or two or more children. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act created a third child category for 2009 and 2010 and Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization and Job Creation Act of 2010 extended this provision through 2012. This change benefits approximately 116,000 children a year in Massachusetts.

Third, this legislation would increase the credit amount for childless workers. The EITC was designed to help childless workers offset their payroll tax liability. The credit phase-in was set to equal the employee share of the payroll tax, 7.65 percent. However, in reality, the employee bears the burden of both the employee and employer portion of the payroll tax. A typical single childless adult will begin to owe Federal income taxes in addition to payroll taxes when his or her income is only \$10,655, which is below the poverty line. These changes will result in a full time worker receiving the minimum wage to be eligible for the maximum earned income credit amount.

This legislation doubles the credit rate for individual taxpayer and married taxpayers without children. The credit rate and phase-out rate of 7.65 percent is doubled to 15.3 percent. For 2007, the maximum credit amount for an individual would increase from \$457 to \$929. In addition, the legislation would increase the credit phase-out income level from \$7,590 to \$12,690 for individuals and from \$12,670 to \$17,770 for married couples. This increase is indexed for inflation and includes the marriage penalty relief. Under current law, workers under age 25 are ineligible for the childless workers EITC. The Strengthen the Earned Income Tax Credit Act of 2011 would change the age