

Whereas, the WEP causes hard-working individuals to lose a significant portion of the Social Security benefits that they earn themselves; and

Whereas, the WEP negatively impacts approximately 25,322 Louisianians; and

Whereas, because of these calculation characteristics, the GPO and the WEP have a disproportionately negative effect on employees working in lower-wage government jobs, like policemen, firefighters, teachers, and state employees; and

Whereas, these provisions also have a greater adverse effect on women than on men because of the gender differences in salary that continue to plague our nation and because of the longer life expectancy of women; and

Whereas, Louisiana is making every effort to improve the quality of life of its citizens and to encourage them to live here lifelong, yet the current GPO and WEP provisions compromise that quality of life; and

Whereas, retired individuals negatively affected by GPO and WEP have significantly less money to support their basic needs and sometimes have to turn to government assistance programs; and

Whereas, the GPO and the WEP penalize individuals who have dedicated their lives to public service by eliminating benefits they have earned; and

Whereas, our nation should respect, not penalize, public servants; and

Whereas, the number of people affected by GPO and WEP is growing every day as more and more people reach retirement age; and

Whereas, the GPO and WEP are established in federal law, and repeal of the GPO and the WEP can be enacted only by the United States Congress. Therefore be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the Congress of the United States to review the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision Social Security benefit reductions and to consider eliminating or reducing them by enacting the Social Security Fairness Act of 2011 (H.R. 1332), the Public Servant Retirement Protection Act of 2011 (S. 113), or a similar instrument. Be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with amendments:

S. 630. A bill to promote marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy research and development, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 112-31).

S. 699. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Energy to carry out a program to demonstrate the commercial application of integrated systems for long-term geological storage of carbon dioxide, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 112-32).

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 757. A bill to provide incentives to encourage the development and implementation of technology to capture carbon dioxide from dilute sources on a significant scale using direct air capture technologies (Rept. No. 112-33).

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 1342. An original bill to amend the Federal Power Act to protect the bulk-power system and electric infrastructure critical to the defense of the United States against cybersecurity and other threats and vulnerabilities (Rept. No. 112-34).

S. 1343. An original bill to provide for the conduct of an analysis of the impact of energy development and production on the water resources of the United States, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 112-35).

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. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. VITTER, Ms. AYOTTE, and Mr. LEE):

S. 1341. A bill to provide a point of order against consideration of any measure that would increase the statutory limit on the public debt above \$14.294 trillion unless that measure has been publicly available for a full 7 calendar days before consideration on the floor of the Senate; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. BINGAMAN:

S. 1342. An original bill to amend the Federal Power Act to protect the bulk-power system and electric infrastructure critical to the defense of the United States against cybersecurity and other threats and vulnerabilities; from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. BINGAMAN:

S. 1343. An original bill to provide for the conduct of an analysis of the impact of energy development and production on the water resources of the United States, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. KYL (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. 1344. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to take immediate action to recover ecologically and economically from a catastrophic wildfire in the State of Arizona, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 1345. A bill to provide for equitable compensation to the Spokane Tribe of Indians of the Spokane Reservation for the use of tribal land for the production of hydropower by the Grand Coulee Dam, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian 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. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. Res. 230. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that any agreement to reduce the budget deficit should not include cuts to Social Security benefits or Medicare benefits; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BURR (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. ALEXANDER):

S. Res. 231. A resolution designating September 2011 as "National Child Awareness Month" to promote awareness of charities

benefitting children and youth-serving organizations throughout the United States and recognizing efforts made by those charities and organizations on behalf of children and youth as critical contributions to the future of the United States; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 17

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 17, a bill to repeal the job-killing tax on medical devices to ensure continued access to life-saving medical devices for patients and maintain the standing of United States as the world leader in medical device innovation.

S. 20

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 20, a bill to protect American job creation by striking the job-killing Federal employer mandate.

S. 185

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 185, a bill to provide United States assistance for the purpose of eradicating severe forms of trafficking in children in eligible countries through the implementation of Child Protection Compacts, and for other purposes.

S. 195

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 195, a bill to reinstate Federal matching of State spending of child support incentive payments.

S. 201

At the request of Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were withdrawn as cosponsors of S. 201, a bill to clarify the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior with respect to the C.C. Cragin Dam and Reservoir, and for other purposes.

S. 227

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 227, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 387

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) 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. 543

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator

from Virginia (Mr. WEBB) were added as cosponsors of S. 543, a bill to restrict any State or local jurisdiction from imposing a new discriminatory tax on cell phone services, providers, or property.

S. 570

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 570, a bill to prohibit the Department of Justice from tracking and cataloguing the purchases of multiple rifles and shotguns.

S. 584

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 584, a bill to establish the Social Work Reinvestment Commission to provide independent counsel to Congress and the Secretary of Health and Human Services on policy issues associated with recruitment, retention, research, and reinvestment in the profession of social work, and for other purposes.

S. 598

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 598, a bill to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and ensure respect for State regulation of marriage.

S. 707

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 707, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to provide further protection for puppies.

S. 778

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 778, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to physician supervision of therapeutic hospital outpatient services.

S. 798

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 798, a bill to provide an amnesty period during which veterans and their family members can register certain firearms in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record, and for other purposes.

S. 807

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 807, a bill to authorize the Department of Labor's voluntary protection program and to expand the program to include more small businesses.

S. 951

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota

(Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 951, a bill to improve the provision of Federal transition, rehabilitation, vocational, and unemployment benefits to members of the Armed Forces and veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 987

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 987, a bill to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration.

S. 1025

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) were added as cosponsors of S. 1025, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance the national defense through empowerment of the National Guard, enhancement of the functions of the National Guard Bureau, and improvement of Federal-State military coordination in domestic emergency response, and for other purposes.

S. 1048

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1048, a bill to expand sanctions imposed with respect to the Islamic Republic of Iran, North Korea, and Syria, and for other purposes.

S. 1058

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1058, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to ensure transparency and proper operation of pharmacy benefit managers.

S. 1171

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1171, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion from gross income for employer-provided health coverage for employees' spouses and dependent children to coverage provided to other eligible dependent beneficiaries of employees.

S. 1223

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1223, a bill to address voluntary location tracking of electronic communications devices, and for other purposes.

S. 1280

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1280, a bill to amend the Peace Corps Act to require sexual assault risk-reduction and response training, and the development of sexual assault protocol and guidelines, the establishment of victims advocates, the establishment of a Sexual Assault Advisory Council, and for other purposes.

S. 1308

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr.

GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1308, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to child pornography and child exploitation offenses.

S.J. RES. 17

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 17, a joint resolution approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 17, supra.

S. RES. 175

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 175, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to ongoing violations of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Georgia and the importance of a peaceful and just resolution to the conflict within Georgia's internationally recognized borders.

S. RES. 201

At the request of Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 201, a resolution expressing the regret of the Senate for the passage of discriminatory laws against the Chinese in America, including the Chinese Exclusion Act.

S. RES. 226

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 226, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the President does not have the authority to ignore the statutory debt limit by ordering the Secretary of the Treasury to continue issuing debt on the full faith and credit of the United States.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KYL (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. 1344. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to take immediate action to recover ecologically and economically from a catastrophic wildfire in the State of Arizona, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, today I am introducing, with Senator JOHN MCCAIN, S. 1344, which is a response to Arizona's largest wildfire, called the Wallow Fire. This act is the Wallow Fire Recovery and Monitoring Act.

The Wallow Fire in Arizona burned, over about 40 days, 538,000 acres of Arizona land, making it the largest fire in the history of our State. Just to put it into perspective, that is nearly 841 square miles or almost four times the