

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4310. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Semiannual Report to Congress on Audit Follow-up for the period of April 1, 2011 through September 30, 2011; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4311. A communication from the Chairman of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semi-Annual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2011 through September 30, 2011; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4312. A communication from the Chairman of the Broadcasting Board of Governors, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report for the period of April 1, 2011 through September 30, 2011; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4313. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Chemical Mixtures Containing Listed Forms of Phosphorous and Change in Application Process" (RIN1117-AA66) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 12, 2011; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4314. A communication from the National Executive Secretary, Navy Club of the United States of America, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the national financial statement of the organization, and national staff and convention minutes for the year ending July 31, 2011; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation I report favorably the following nomination list which was printed in the RECORD on the date indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that this nomination lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration nominations beginning with Benjamin M. Lacour and ending with Brian D. Prestcott, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 5, 2011.

By Mrs. BOXER for the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

Rebecca R. Wodder, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife.

By Mr. HARKIN for the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

*Deepa Gupta, of Illinois, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2016;

*Christopher Merrill, of Iowa, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2016;

*Stephanie Orlando, of New York, to be a Member of the National Council on Disability for the remainder of the term expiring September 17, 2011;

*Stephanie Orlando, of New York, to be a Member of the National Council on Dis-

ability for a term expiring September 17, 2014;

*Gary Blumenthal, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the National Council on Disability for a term expiring September 17, 2013; and

*Wendy M. Spencer, of Florida, to be Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, for the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions I report favorably the following nomination list which was printed in the RECORD on the date indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that this nomination lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Public Health Service nominations beginning with Jose G. Bal and ending with Kendra J. Vieira, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 8, 2011.

*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.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

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. BLUNT (for himself, Mrs. McCASKILL, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. COBURN, and Mr. ENZI):

S. 1988. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to consider private land-ownership and private use of land in issuing hydropower licenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 1989. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the minimum low-income housing tax credit rate for unsubsidized buildings and to provide a minimum 4 percent credit rate for existing buildings; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BURR, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. TESTER, and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. 1990. A bill to require the Transportation Security Administration to comply with the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE:

S. 1991. A bill to establish the National Endowment for the Oceans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BROWN of Ohio (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 1992. A bill to provide flexibility of certain transit functions to local entities; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 1993. A bill to posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Lena Horne in recognition of her achievements and contributions to American culture and the civil rights movement; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 1994. A bill to prohibit deceptive practices in Federal elections; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. KOHL, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 1995. A bill to enhance Food and Drug Administration oversight of medical device recalls, to provide for the conditional clearance of certain medical devices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 431

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 431, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 225th anniversary of the establishment of the Nation's first Federal law enforcement agency, the United States Marshals Service.

S. 506

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 506, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to address and take action to prevent bullying and harassment of students.

S. 534

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 534, 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. 547

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 547, a bill to direct the Secretary of Education to establish an award program recognizing excellence exhibited by public school system employees providing services to students in pre-kindergarten through higher education.

S. 587

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 587, a bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to repeal a certain exemption for hydraulic fracturing, and for other purposes.

S. 685

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 685, a bill to repeal the Federal sugar program.

S. 707

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 707, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to provide further protection for puppies.

S. 1355

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1355, a bill to regulate political robocalls.

S. 1494

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1494, a bill to reauthorize and amend the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act.

S. 1544

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1544, a bill to amend the Securities Act of 1933 to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to exempt a certain class of securities from such Act.

S. 1578

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1578, a bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act with respect to consumer confidence reports by community water systems.

S. 1597

At the request of Mr. BROWN of Ohio, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1597, a bill to provide assistance for the modernization, renovation, and repair of elementary school and secondary school buildings in public school districts and community colleges across the United States in order to support the achievement of improved educational outcomes in those schools, and for other purposes.

S. 1746

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1746, a bill to amend the Immigration and Na-

tionality Act to stimulate international tourism to the United States.

S. 1824

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1824, a bill to amend the securities laws to establish certain thresholds for shareholder registration under that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1880

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1880, a bill to repeal the health care law's job-killing health insurance tax.

S. 1903

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 1903, a bill to prohibit commodities and securities trading based on nonpublic information relating to Congress, to require additional reporting by Members and employees of Congress of securities transactions, and for other purposes.

S. 1925

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1925, a bill to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994.

S. 1927

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1927, a bill to modify the criteria used by the Corps of Engineers to dredge small ports.

S. 1932

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1932, a bill to require the Secretary of State to act on a permit for the Keystone XL pipeline.

S. 1961

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1961, a bill to provide level funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

S. RES. 347

At the request of Mr. REID, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 347, a resolution recognizing the 40th anniversary of the National Cancer Act of 1971 and the more than 12,000,000 survivors of cancer alive today because of the commitment of the United States to cancer research and advances in cancer prevention, detection, diagnosis, and treatment.

At the request of Mr. BROWN of Ohio, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 347, *supra*.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. COLLINS,

Mr. BURR, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. TESTER, and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. 1990. A bill to require the Transportation Security Administration to comply with the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise to introduce legislation that would guarantee the jobs of Transportation Service Officers, TSO, who are called to active military duty, putting them on the same playing field as every other civilian employee called up to serve their nation in the uniformed services in times of need.

I want to thank my cosponsors for their support of this measure, including my colleague from Connecticut, Senator RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, and the Ranking Member of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, Senator SUSAN COLLINS. Other cosponsors include Senators BURR, AKAKA, TESTER and LANDRIEU.

This is a very simple and straightforward bill that would close a loophole in the law that leaves Transportation Security Officers called to full time military service vulnerable to dismissal from their jobs upon return to civilian life.

The jobs of all other non-military public and private sector employees called up to active duty are protected under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994, USERRA. USERRA entitles a reservist, a member of the National Guard, or a veteran who is called to duty to return to their civilian jobs once their service is complete. The service member must meet certain, basic requirements, such as providing advance notice to their employer of their impending service and missing no more than 5 years of work under any one employer due to their service.

According to the law itself, the purpose of USERRA is to "encourage non-career service in the uniformed services by eliminating or minimizing the disadvantages to civilian careers and employment which can result from such service."

The law also minimizes the disruption to those who are called up to service by providing for their prompt reemployment when they return to civilian life and protects them from discrimination based on their active duty in the uniformed services.

This is simple fairness to those with the courage, determination, and love of country to serve in the uniformed services beyond any required service or normal tour of duty, and certainly at an age older than most soldiers.

TSOs, however, are not statutorily protected against dismissal from their jobs upon return from military service. In the aftermath of 9/11, when Congress moved with lightening speed to strengthen the safety of air travel, we provided the Transportation Security Administration with the broad authority it would need to hire and deploy