

S. 1910

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1910, a bill to provide benefits to domestic partners of Federal employees.

S. 1935

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1935, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition and celebration of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the March of Dimes Foundation.

S. 2003

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2003, a bill to clarify that an authorization to use military force, a declaration of war, or any similar authority shall not authorize the detention without charge or trial of a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States and for other purposes.

S. 2047

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 2047, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to make demonstration grants to eligible local educational agencies for the purpose of reducing the student-to-school nurse ratio in public elementary schools and secondary schools.

S. 2069

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2069, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to speed American innovation in research and drug development for the leading causes of death that are the most costly chronic conditions for our Nation, to save American families and the Federal and State governments money, and to help family caregivers.

S. 2074

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2074, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the rehabilitation credit, and for other purposes.

S. 2076

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2076, a bill to improve security at State and local courthouses.

S. 2160

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2160, a bill to improve the examination of depository institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 2245

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr.

HATCH) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2245, a bill to preserve existing rights and responsibilities with respect to waters of the United States.

S. 2276

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2276, a bill to permit Federal officers to remove cases involving crimes of violence to Federal court.

S. 2277

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2277, a bill to respond to the extreme fire hazard and unsafe conditions resulting from pine beetle infestation, drought, disease, or storm damage by declaring a state of emergency and directing the Secretary of Agriculture to immediately implement hazardous fuels reduction projects in the manner provided in title I of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003, and for other purposes.

S. 2299

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2299, a bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act and title 38, United States Code, to improve the provision of civil relief to members of the uniformed services and to improve the enforcement of employment and reemployment rights of such members, and for other purposes.

S. 2320

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2320, a bill to direct the American Battle Monuments Commission to provide for the ongoing maintenance of Clark Veterans Cemetery in the Republic of the Philippines, and for other purposes.

S. 2325

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2325, a bill to authorize further assistance to Israel for the Iron Dome anti-missile defense system.

S. 2347

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2347, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure the continued access of Medicare beneficiaries to diagnostic imaging services.

S. 3048

At the request of Mr. BROWN of Ohio, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3048, a bill to provide for a safe, accountable, fair, and efficient banking system, and for other purposes.

S. 3083

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from South Da-

kota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3083, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require certain nonresident aliens to provide valid immigration documents to claim the refundable portion of the child tax credit.

S. RES. 399

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 399, a resolution calling upon the President to ensure that the foreign policy of the United States reflects appropriate understanding and sensitivity concerning issues related to human rights, crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing, and genocide documented in the United States record relating to the Armenian Genocide, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 401

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 401, a resolution expressing appreciation for Foreign Service and Civil Service professionals who represent the United States around the globe.

S. RES. 435

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 435, a resolution calling for democratic change in Syria, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 3179. A bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to enhance the protections accorded to servicemembers and their spouses with respect to mortgages, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I introduce the Servicemember Housing Protection Act, and I thank Senators DURBIN, SHERROD BROWN, WHITEHOUSE, and BEGICH for joining me as original cosponsors of this bill.

In 1940, as World War II escalated across the globe, Congress enacted the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act "to protect those who have been obliged to drop their own affairs to take up the burdens of the nation." In 2003, Congress passed a new version of this law to reflect the new challenges of post-9/11 service and renamed it the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, SCRA. In 2010, in order to address the country's high foreclosure rates and their impact on servicemembers, Congress further amended this law to enhance foreclosure protections.

Also in 2010, when it became evident that military families needed an entity

to serve as a watchdog, provide education, and help monitor and respond to concerns, questions, and complaints about consumer financial products and services, I led the bipartisan effort during the Dodd-Frank act debate to create a new Office of Servicemember Affairs within the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, CFPB.

Our country has a strong tradition of ensuring that the laws that protect our servicemembers keep pace with the challenges that they face. The Servicemember Housing Protection Act seeks to address one such continuing challenge helping servicemembers with their housing needs so they can maintain a focus on the difficult task of protecting our country.

First, our bill would make it easier for servicemembers to submit their military orders to creditors and get their affairs in order prior to deployment. Currently, creditors require a copy of military orders in order to trigger SCRA protections. However, these orders are often not cut until just before deployment or once the servicemember is already deployed. Redefining military orders as either official orders or a letter from the servicemember's commanding officer would further ensure that a servicemember has more time to prepare for deployment and promptly receives SCRA protections, including the interest rate limitation of six percent on qualifying mortgages.

Second, this bill would extend foreclosure protections to surviving spouses. Currently, servicemembers have a 9-month window of foreclosure protection following service, to provide time to reacclimate to civilian life and get affairs back in order. Our bill extends this nine-month window of foreclosure protection to a surviving spouse. After suffering such an unspeakable loss, a military spouse should not have the additional burden of dealing with immediate foreclosure.

Lastly, this bill would help facilitate the transition from off-base to on-base housing. Due to the shortage of on-base military housing, many servicemembers temporarily find off-base housing until on-base housing becomes available. When a servicemember on a waiting list is given the chance to move into on-base housing, he or she is sometimes unable to terminate his or her off-base housing lease. Including an order to move from off-base to on-base housing as additional grounds for lease termination would allow servicemembers and their families the opportunity to move into the military housing community. We should extend this opportunity, which already is law in several states, such as Florida, Georgia, and Virginia, to servicemembers serving at any of our military bases.

While the men and women of our Armed Forces are protecting our nation overseas, we should do everything possible to protect their families and homes. I urge my colleagues to join Senators DURBIN, SHERROD BROWN, WHITEHOUSE, BEGICH, and me, as well as

the Military Officers Association of America, in supporting this bill and taking these next steps to add protections for our military families.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 460—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF MAY 20 THROUGH MAY 26, 2012, AS "NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK"

Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 460

Whereas public works infrastructure, facilities, and services are of vital importance to the health, safety, and well-being of the people of the United States;

Whereas the public works infrastructure, facilities, and services could not be provided without the dedicated efforts of public works professionals, including engineers and administrators, who represent State and local governments throughout the United States;

Whereas public works professionals design, build, operate, and maintain the transportation systems, water infrastructure, sewage and refuse disposal systems, public buildings, and other structures and facilities that are vital to the people and communities of the United States; and

Whereas understanding the role that public infrastructure plays in protecting the environment, improving public health and safety, contributing to economic vitality, and enhancing the quality of life of every community of the United States is in the interest of the people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of May 20 through May 26, 2012, as "National Public Works Week";

(2) recognizes and celebrates the important contributions that public works professionals make every day to improve—

(A) the public infrastructure of the United States; and

(B) the communities that public works professionals serve; and

(3) urges individuals and communities throughout the United States to join with representatives of the Federal Government and the American Public Works Association in activities and ceremonies that are designed—

(A) to pay tribute to the public works professionals of the United States; and

(B) to recognize the substantial contributions that public works professionals make to the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 461—RECOGNIZING THE TEACHERS OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS OF OUR NATION

Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. WARNER, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. COONS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. KOHL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 461

Whereas education is the foundation of the current and future strength of the United States;

Whereas teachers and other education staff have earned and deserve the respect of students and communities for selfless dedication to our Nation's children;

Whereas the purpose of "National Teacher Appreciation Week", is to raise public awareness of the important contributions of teachers and to promote greater respect and understanding for the teaching profession;

Whereas the teachers of the United States play an important role in preparing children to be positive and contributing members of society; and

Whereas students, schools, communities, and a number of organizations host teacher appreciation events in recognition of "National Teacher Appreciation Week": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) thanks teachers for their service;

(2) promotes the profession of teaching; and

(3) recognizes students, parents, school administrators, and public officials who participate in teacher appreciation events during "National Teacher Appreciation Week".

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2105. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2072, to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2106. Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. COONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2072, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2105. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2072, to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 25 and insert the following:

SEC. 25. RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY TECHNOLOGIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Export-Import Bank of the United States should work to increase the export of renewable energy technologies and end-use energy efficiency technologies with a goal of significantly expanding, year-after-year, the Bank's annual aggregate loan, guarantee, and insurance authorizations supporting those technologies.

(b) INCREASED REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—The Export-Import Bank of the United States shall include in its annual report to Congress an analysis of any barriers to realizing the Bank's congressional directive to increase the Bank's financing for renewable energy technology and end-use energy efficiency technology and any tools the Bank needs to assist the Bank in overcoming those barriers. The analysis shall include barriers such as—

(1) inadequate staffing;

(2) inadequate financial products;

(3) lack of capital authority; and

(4) limitations imposed by domestic markets.

SEC. 26. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Except as provided in section 9(b), this Act and the amendments made by this Act shall