

such schools' athletic programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1461

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1461, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to clarify the Food and Drug Administration's jurisdiction over certain tobacco products, and to protect jobs and small businesses involved in the sale, manufacturing and distribution of traditional and premium cigars.

S. 1467

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1467, a bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to protect rights of conscience with regard to requirements for coverage of specific items and services.

S. 1802

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1802, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to carry out programs and activities that connect Americans, especially children, youth, and families, with the outdoors.

S. 1834

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1834, a bill to restore and repair the United States mortgage markets by making them transparent, bringing in private capital, winding down the Government-sponsored enterprises, and for other purposes.

S. 1862

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1862, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health of children and reduce the occurrence of sudden unexpected infant death and to enhance public health activities related to stillbirth.

S. 1884

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1884, a bill to provide States with incentives to require elementary schools and secondary schools to maintain, and permit school personnel to administer, epinephrine at schools.

S. 1925

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

S. 2043

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms.

MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2043, a bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to provide religious conscience protections for individuals and organizations.

S. 2054

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2054, a bill to suspend the current compensation packages for the senior executives at Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and to establish compensation for all employees of such entities in accordance with rates of pay for other Federal financial regulatory agencies.

S. 2064

At the request of Mr. DEMINT, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2064, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to terminate certain energy tax subsidies and lower the corporate income tax rate.

S. RES. 232

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 232, a resolution recognizing the continued persecution of Falun Gong practitioners in China on the 12th anniversary of the campaign by the Chinese Communist Party to suppress the Falun Gong movement, recognizing the Tuidang movement whereby Chinese citizens renounce their ties to the Chinese Communist Party and its affiliates, and calling for an immediate end to the campaign to persecute Falun Gong practitioners.

S. RES. 310

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 310, a resolution designating 2012 as the "Year of the Girl" and Congratulating Girl Scouts of the USA on its 100th anniversary.

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 310, *supra*.

S. RES. 356

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 356, a resolution expressing support for the people of Tibet.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Mr. CONRAD):

S. 2075. A bill to close unjustified corporate tax loopholes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, today, along with Senator CONRAD and others, I am introducing S. 2075, the Cut Unjustified Tax Loopholes Act, or CUT Loopholes Act. This legislation will help us meet three important goals: Reducing the budget deficit, protecting

important priorities, and restoring some of the fairness to our tax system.

Our legislation would reduce the deficit by \$155 billion. It would do so by closing tax loopholes that favor wealthy individuals and corporations while raising the tax burden that American families must carry. It would provide more than enough revenue to pay for a full-year extension of the payroll tax cut now in place, or put a significant dent in the deficit reduction we need to avoid draconian automatic cuts through sequestration.

It is clear to almost everyone that revenue must be a part of our deficit reduction strategy. Presidents from Reagan to Bush, Sr. to Clinton have used balanced strategies that included revenue as well as spending cuts.

I will continue to fight for a number of other revenue measures such as a surtax on millionaires and billionaires; eliminating tax subsidies for oil and gas companies; ending the Bush-era tax cuts for those earning more than \$250,000; and ending the carried interest loophole. We need to make those changes. But so far, they have run into an ideological brick wall, as many here in Congress refuse to consider reasonable revenue measures. But even that rigid ideological stance should allow for ending the kinds of egregious loopholes we are discussing today.

First is offshore tax haven abuse. The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, which I chair, has spent years shedding light on how these abuses aid the wealthy and corporations. Based in part on S. 1346, the Stop Tax Haven Abuse Act, our bill would, in part: Give Treasury the authority to combat tax haven banks and jurisdictions that help U.S. clients hide assets and dodge U.S. taxes; crack down on offshore corporations that are managed from the U.S. from claiming foreign status to dodge taxes; eliminate tax incentives for moving U.S. jobs overseas or for transferring intellectual property offshore; and establish the presumption that, unless a taxpayer proves otherwise, a corporation formed by, receiving assets from, or benefiting a U.S. taxpayer is considered under that taxpayer's control for tax purposes.

These provisions and others would reduce the deficit by at least \$130 billion over 10 years.

Our bill's second focus is on a tax loophole that subsidizes corporations giving stock options to corporate executives. Today, corporations can take massive tax deductions for stock options, but usually show much lower expense on their books. Our subcommittee found that from 2005-2009, this loophole allowed excess tax deductions ranging from \$12 billion to as high as \$61 billion in a single year.

The CUT Loopholes Act would prevent corporate income tax deductions for stock options that exceed the expense shown on company books. It would preserve current tax treatment for individuals receiving options and

for incentive stock options used by start-up companies.

According to the Joint Committee on Taxation, these measures would reduce the deficit by \$25 billion over 10 years.

The time for these measures is now.

First, the math is inescapable. We can't reduce the deficit and do other important things—protect our country, care for our seniors, educate our young—if tax revenue remains at its lowest level in decades, and if the effective corporate tax rate is at historic lows, thanks in part to these and other tax loopholes.

Second, there is a growing recognition among Americans that loopholes like these and many others leave the deck stacked against them and their families. Overwhelmingly Americans tell us: Close those loopholes down.

Third, this is not just a realization by Democrats. Strong majorities of Independents and Republicans say that we need balanced deficit reduction, and that closing loopholes is one way to do that. Just this week, a national poll showed that 90 percent of small business owners—a majority of them Republicans—believe big corporations use loopholes to avoid taxes that small businesses still have to pay.

Reducing the deficit and protecting important programs is hard. We face many tough decisions and difficult fights in the months ahead.

But this decision should be easy. We should close these loopholes and make a bipartisan statement that we can reduce the deficit, serve important priorities, and restore fairness to the tax code.

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

S. 2076. A bill to improve security at State and local courthouses; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, Sue Lantto is an advocate of victims of domestic violence. She often visits a local courthouse in suburban Minneapolis to help her clients obtain protective orders. Last month, she wrote an editorial in which she acknowledged that “[m]ost of us who work at the courthouse have had moments when we were frightened” because cases sometimes “become volatile.”

Patricia Buss handles family court matters in Dakota County, MN. She says she “personally think[s] of the risks every time [she] walk[s] into the courthouses.”

John Baker is an attorney in Maplewood, MN. He is also a retired marine. He concurs with Sue and Patricia. He says:

I am not saying that we need to create fortresses in our courthouses, but basic security screening and training can go a long way. That is not being done.

The local courthouse is a workplace for many people, for secretaries, custodians, and clerks who clock in and clock out every day. It is also

where justice is administered. It is where we report for jury duty and fight traffic tickets. It is where adoptions are processed, divorces are finalized, and misdemeanors are adjudicated. But as Sue, Patricia and John explained, local courthouses can be dangerous places—stakes are high, tempers flare, victims confront their assailants, defendants confront their accusers, prosecutors argue with defense lawyers. A rash of incidents in late 2011 raised concerns about security at local courthouses, especially in rural and suburban communities.

In September, a defendant opened fire in the Crawford County Courthouse in Arkansas, shooting a judge's secretary. Authorities reported the gunman entered the courthouse unopposed, wearing tactical gear, armed with semiautomatic weapons. The local newspaper later noted the shooting “highlighted the vulnerability of the state's many small, rural courthouses where the guards, armed police and metal detectors common in large cities are often too expensive.”

Two days later, there was a shooting in the Adams County Superior Court in Indiana. According to media accounts, that courthouse did not have a metal detector either. A local judge observed that there were “a lot of security problems here that need to be corrected” and that the shooting “really drove home the point that things need to change.”

Then, in December, a defendant retrieved a gun from his car and walked into the Cook County Courthouse in Grand Marais, MN. The courthouse did not have a metal detector and the gunman was not screened. He shot and wounded the prosecuting attorney and a witness. The bailiff also was injured during the encounter. After the shooting, a Minnesota judge wrote to his colleagues expressing concerns about courthouse security. He put the issue very well. He said: “I'm no longer willing to risk my life, the life of court staff, the life of the public who have no choice about going to court.” He said he was worried about being “carried out in a body bag.”

These are not isolated incidents. The Center for Judicial and Executive Security in St. Paul tracks court-targeted acts of violence across the Nation and estimates there were 23 such incidents at local courthouses in 2010 and 2011 or about 1 per month. This is not the first time we have confronted this issue in Minnesota. A few years ago, a man took hostages at the courthouse in Morrison County. After the shooting in Grand Marais, in December, a local sheriff recalled that “[t]here were a lot of heroes who really averted something much more serious.”

I am grateful for those heroes. Minnesota's sheriffs and law enforcement personnel across our Nation are among them. These brave men and women have many duties, including the daunting task of keeping our local

courthouses safe. In fact, the National Sheriffs Association sent me a letter last week. I think it is worth noting, so let me read it.

Sheriffs are typically responsible for the safety and security of the local courthouses in their counties—along with performing traditional law enforcement duties and operating the local jails. Sadly, in recent years, there has been a spike in violent incidents in courthouses across the country. This violence places law enforcement, judicial personnel, and the general public in harm's way. As such, it is imperative that sheriffs have the resources, particularly in rural areas where resources are extremely limited, to ensure courthouses have the appropriate equipment and tools necessary to improve security, enabling for the protection of courthouses throughout the United States.

Our sheriffs need support, and we should not wait for the next courthouse shooting before we give it to them. That is why today I am introducing the bipartisan Local Courthouse Safety Act. It does three simple, commonsense things.

First, the bill cuts through bureaucratic redtape, giving local courts direct access to security equipment that Federal agencies no longer are using. This provision is modeled after a Defense Department program that allows the Pentagon to give its excess equipment to local police and firefighters. The Local Courthouse Safety Act would do the same thing for local courts. It would give them direct access to the Federal Government's excess metal detectors, wands, and baggage screening machines.

Second, the Local Courthouse Safety Act gives States the flexibility they need to make investments in courthouse security. It clarifies that States may use their Byrne Justice Assistance grants, the Byrne JAG grants, and State Homeland Security grants to improve safety at local courthouses. The bill does not require any new spending, and it does not impose any new mandates on anyone. It simply says that States can use existing Federal resources for courthouse security upgrades if they so choose.

Finally, the Local Courthouse Safety Act provides statutory authorization for the Justice Department's VALOR Initiative, which provides training and technical assistance to local law enforcement officers teaching them how to anticipate and survive violent encounters.

This is a bipartisan issue, and this should be legislation we can pass even in this divided Congress. I am proud to introduce this legislation with Senator BOOZMAN, my Republican colleague from Arkansas, and a champion for law enforcement personnel in his State and across the country. I encourage my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to join Senator BOOZMAN and me in advancing this bill. In doing so, they will join a long and growing list of groups who support it, including the National Sheriffs Association, the Conference of Chief Justices, and the Conference of State Court Administrators.

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. 2076

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 “Local Courthouse Safety Act of 2012”.

SEC. 2. PROVIDING LOCAL COURTHOUSES WITH SECURITY TRAINING AND ASSESSMENTS.

The Attorney General, as part of the Preventing Violence Against Law Enforcement and Ensuring Officer Resilience and Survivability Initiative (VALOR) of the Department of Justice, may provide safety training and technical assistance to local law enforcement agencies.

SEC. 3. IMPROVING FLEXIBILITY OF STATES TO USE GRANTS TO PROTECT COURTHOUSES.

(a) STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 2008(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 609(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (12), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (13) as paragraph (14); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (12) the following:

“(13) improving security at courthouses of a State or local government; and”.

(b) BYRNE GRANTS.—Section 501(a)(1)(B) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3751(a)(1)(B)) is amended by inserting “, including programs to improve security at courthouses” before the period.

SEC. 4. IMPROVING ACCESS OF LOCAL COURTHOUSES TO EXCESS FEDERAL SECURITY EQUIPMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding after section 529 the following:

“§ 530. Excess security equipment

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

“(1) the term ‘excess security equipment’ means excess property that is used to detect weapons, including metal detectors, wands, and baggage screening devices; and

“(2) the term ‘qualifying State or local courthouse’ means a courthouse of a State or local government that has less security equipment than the security needs of the courthouse require.

“(b) DISPOSAL OF EXCESS SECURITY EQUIPMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter, the Administrator of General Services shall ensure that a State or local government has an opportunity to request to receive excess security equipment for use at a qualifying State or local courthouse before the excess security equipment is made available to any other individual or entity under this subchapter.

“(2) DISPOSAL.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), upon request by a State or local government for excess security equipment for use at a qualifying State or local courthouse, the excess security equipment shall be made available to the State or local government without cost, except for any costs of care and handling.

“(B) MULTIPLE REQUESTS.—If more than 1 State or local government requests a particular piece of excess security equipment, the excess security equipment shall be dis-

tributed based on need, as determined by the Administrator of General Services, with priority given to a qualifying State or local courthouse that has no security equipment.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 5 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 529 the following:

“530. Excess security equipment.”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 369—CONGRATULATING THE NEW YORK GIANTS FOR WINNING SUPER BOWL XLVI

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 369

Whereas on February 5, 2012, the New York Giants achieved the improbable and upset the New England Patriots by a score of 21 to 17 to win Super Bowl XLVI;

Whereas during the 2012 postseason, the Giants were the epitome of determination, fortitude, and resiliency as they made their way through the playoffs and ultimately triumphed over the New England Patriots;

Whereas quarterback Eliana Nelson “Eli” Manning, who went 30 for 40 for 296 yards, with 1 touchdown pass and zero interceptions, led a fourth-quarter touchdown drive, set a Super Bowl record by completing his first 9 pass attempts, and won his second Super Bowl Most Valuable Player Award;

Whereas punter Steve Weatherford set a Super Bowl record with 3 punts downed inside the 10-yard line;

Whereas in each round of the playoffs, when none of the experts thought the Giants had a chance to win, the Giants and their loyal, dedicated, and passionate fans believed they could accomplish what others declared impossible;

Whereas in 2008, Tom Coughlin, head coach of the Giants, led the Giants to victory in Super Bowl XLII;

Whereas this season, Tom Coughlin, in his eighth year as head coach of the Giants, with the help of Perry Fewell, defensive coordinator, Kevin Gilbride, offensive coordinator, and the entire Giants coaching staff, led the Giants to a victory in Super Bowl XLVI and brought the Vince Lombardi Trophy back to the Meadowlands;

Whereas the New York Giants organization is one of the most successful in National Football League history, boasting 18 Hall of Famers, appearing in 31 postseasons, winning more than 600 games and 8 championships, including remarkable title runs in 1987, 1991, 2008, and 2012 (Super Bowls XXI, XXV, XLII, and XLVI) that captivated New York and New Jersey;

Whereas the New York Giants are the first team to win the Super Bowl with a 9 and 7 regular-season record;

Whereas Giants co-owner and chief executive officer John Mara and chairman and executive vice president Steve Tisch have done a remarkable job leading this storied franchise with the assistance and dedication of their talented staff;

Whereas the New York Giants have played all their home games in East Rutherford, New Jersey since 1976 and have supported Bergen County and the northern New Jersey and New York areas with community-outreach projects; and

Whereas the entire Giants franchise has become a model of professionalism, teamwork, and community service in representing the entire New York and New Jersey metropolitan area: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate congratulates the New York Giants for winning Super Bowl XLVI and completing one of the most impressive seasons in professional sports history.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions will meet in open session on Tuesday, February 14, 2012, at 2:30 p.m. in room SD-430 to conduct a hearing entitled “Pain in America: Exploring Challenges to Relief.”

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact the committee on (202) 224-7675.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet in open session on Thursday, February 16, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. in room SD-430 to conduct a hearing entitled “Addressing Workforce Needs at the Regional Level: Innovative Public and Private Partnerships.”

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact the subcommittee on (202) 228-1455.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet on Thursday, February 16, 2012, at 2:15 p.m. in room 628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled “Energy Development in Indian Country.”

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at (202) 224-2251.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 7, 2012, at 3 p.m., in room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to consider a Chairman’s Mark entitled, “The Highway Investment, Job Creation and Economic Growth Act of 2012.”

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 7, 2012, at 10 a.m.

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