

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 316

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 316, a bill to ensure that the victims and victims' families of the November 5, 2009, attack at Fort Hood, Texas, receive the same treatment, benefits, and honors as those Americans who have been killed or wounded in a combat zone overseas and their families.

S. 376

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 376, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that persons having seriously delinquent tax debts shall be ineligible for Federal employment.

S. 402

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 402, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the award of a military service medal to members of the Armed Forces who served honorably during the Cold War, and for other purposes.

S. 412

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 412, a bill to ensure that amounts credited to the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund are used for harbor maintenance.

S. 555

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) were added as cosponsors of S. 555, a bill to end discrimination based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity in public schools, and for other purposes.

S. 641

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 641, a bill to provide 100,000,000 people with first-time access to safe drinking water and sanitation on a sustainable basis within six years by improving the capacity of the United States Government to fully implement the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005.

S. 704

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 704, a bill to provide for duty-free treatment of certain recreational performance outerwear, and for other purposes.

S. 1164

At the request of Mr. DEMINT, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1164, a bill to empower States with authority for most taxing and spending

for highway programs and mass transit programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1269

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1269, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to require the Secretary of Education to collect information from coeducational secondary schools on such schools' athletic programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1315

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1315, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend public safety officers' death benefits to fire police officers.

S. 1335

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1335, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide rights for pilots, and for other purposes.

S. 1369

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1369, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to exempt the conduct of silvicultural activities from national pollutant discharge elimination system permitting requirements.

S. 1460

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1460, a bill to grant the congressional gold medal, collectively, to the First Special Service Force, in recognition of its superior service during World War II.

S. 1467

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. BROWN) 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. 1575

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1575, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the depreciation recovery period for energy-efficient cool roof systems.

S. 1591

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1591, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to

Raoul Wallenberg, in recognition of his achievements and heroic actions during the Holocaust.

S. 1616

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1616, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt certain stock of real estate investment trusts from the tax on foreign investments in United States real property interests, and for other purposes.

S. 1676

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1676, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for taxpayers making donations with their returns of income tax to the Federal Government to pay down the public debt.

S. 1734

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1734, a bill to provide incentives for the development of qualified infectious disease products.

S. 1770

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1770, a bill to prohibit discrimination in adoption or foster case placements based on the sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status of any prospective adoptive or foster parent, or the sexual orientation or gender identity of the child involved.

S. 1796

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1796, a bill to make permanent the Internal Revenue Service Free File program.

S. 1821

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1821, a bill to prevent the termination of the temporary office of bankruptcy judges in certain judicial districts.

S. 1925

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) were added as cosponsors of S. 1925, a bill to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994.

S. 1945

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1945, a bill to permit the televising of Supreme Court proceedings.

S. 1990

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from Missouri

(Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1990, a bill to require the Transportation Security Administration to comply with the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.

S. 2043

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) 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. 2053

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2053, a bill to encourage transit-oriented development, and for other purposes.

S. 2059

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2059, a bill to reduce the deficit by imposing a minimum effective tax rate for high-income taxpayers.

S. 2062

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2062, a bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to repeal certain provisions relating to criminal penalties and violations of foreign laws, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 19

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 19, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

S. RES. 310

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) 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.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. HELLER:

S. 2080. A bill to authorize depository institutions, depository institution holding companies, Fannie Mae, and Freddie Mac to lease foreclosed property held by such entities for up to 5 years, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, when our Nation's economy was thriving, Nevada was at the heart of the construction boom. Buildings and homes

were going up across the State. Neighborhoods were growing, schools were being built at record rates, and the construction industry was flourishing. All of this activity drove investments into other areas of the economy, and for many life was good in Nevada. But when the crisis hit, the highs that my State experienced were matched by the lows that followed.

Nevada now leads the Nation in unemployment with more than 160,000 Nevadans looking for a job. Many can no longer afford their homes. Nevadans are being forced into bankruptcy and facing foreclosure. While Nevada is home to some of the most resilient, hard-working people in the country, almost one-quarter of Nevadans are so frustrated that they have simply given up hope for better employment.

Much of the difficulty Nevadans are experiencing can be traced back to the crisis in my State. The ill effects of the depressed housing market are widespread. High rates of foreclosures are devastating to families, neighborhoods, and entire communities. Families who have been foreclosed upon are already having a hard time paying their bills. Add to those difficulties the time spent finding a new place and the costs of moving and their problems are compounded. Time spent fighting the bank to avoid foreclosure and relocating would likely be better used to find a job or better paying employment.

One of the biggest problems distressed home owners are facing is the programs that have been put into place to help keep people in their homes that have not lived up to expectations. My office spends a great deal of time with Nevadans on the cusp of losing their homes, looking for help, and trying to keep families in their homes. It is truly heart wrenching to hear some of these stories. These homeowners do not want to foreclose, and obviously they do not want to lose their homes.

I recently received this e-mail from a constituent in Reno who is fighting to keep their home. I would like to share that with you.

We hoped for a win-win situation but in the end all we got was a nightmare in which everyone loses: my sister and I obviously lose, our neighborhood loses as another house sits vacant with a rusting metal sign in the front, our State loses as the housing plight increases again, the bank loses because they lose a customer who just needed another chance and, most importantly, democracy loses as the plutocrats roll over another family.

When families move, their children often have to change schools. So now not only are children forced to move from their homes, they are also leaving behind their schools and their neighborhoods. This kind of destabilization is harmful for families who are already struggling.

Consider the effects of foreclosures on neighborhoods and communities. The widespread availability of housing is flooding the real estate inventory in Nevada. This is forcing down home values and making it difficult for other

people to sell their homes as well. In February 2006 the average home in Nevada was valued at \$309,000. Today the home values have dropped to \$120,000.

Homes left vacant and uncared for can quickly become an eyesore, pushing low home values even lower. This means others in the neighborhood can have a difficult time selling their homes if they want to move. If they find a better job elsewhere, for example, they may not be able to take it because they cannot sell their homes for a reasonable price, if they are able to sell them at all.

Today I am introducing legislation to help reverse these destabilizing forces. The bill I am introducing today, the Keeping Families in their Home Act, will help address large unsold housing inventories and give families a chance to stay in their homes. This bill would allow banks, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, to enter into long-term leases, including an option to purchase properties acquired through foreclosure with the prior homeowner or any individual.

By providing an opportunity for the homeowner to stay in their home, the bank is giving families a chance to regain sound financial footing. This commonsense solution helps provide some much needed stability is available for all families.

While I believe this bill is a good step in the right direction, let me be clear: much more needs to be done to help the housing problems facing Nevada. The programs already in place simply have not done enough and have not lived up to expectations.

I was pleased to see reports of growth in our economy, but people in my State continue to suffer. Back home Nevadans still believe there are no jobs. Small businesses are trying to survive while gridlock in Washington is making it harder for employers to know what is expected in the coming year. Crushing regulations are bringing Nevada's growth industries to a halt. In order for Nevada to experience real long-term recovery, Washington needs to fundamentally change the way it works. Congress needs to stop overspending. Republicans and Democrats should come together to close unfair loopholes and make the Tax Code easier for businesses to understand and to follow. This bill is just one solution to help turn around this housing crisis. It is also an idea that both Republicans and Democrats can support.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this bill and others into law so that we can help families dealing with foreclosures across the country. As I have said before, moving forward I welcome any and all ideas on how to fix the housing crisis in this country. Nevadans cannot afford to wait any longer.

In the meantime, I urge my colleagues to seriously consider supporting this bill. This legislation can go a long way toward helping families, stabilizing neighborhoods, and stem