

S. 3401. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to temporarily extend tax relief provisions enacted in 2001 and 2003, to provide for temporary alternative minimum tax relief, to extend increased expensing limitations, and to provide instructions for tax reform; read the first time.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. BROWN of Ohio):

S. 3402. A bill to require the Secretary of Labor to maintain a publicly available list of all employers that relocate a call center overseas, to make such companies ineligible for Federal grants or guaranteed loans, and to require disclosure of the physical location of business agents engaging in customer service communications, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 672

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 672, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 722

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 722, a bill to strengthen and protect Medicare hospice programs.

S. 1039

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1039, a bill to impose sanctions on persons responsible for the detention, abuse, or death of Sergei Magnitsky, for the conspiracy to defraud the Russian Federation of taxes on corporate profits through fraudulent transactions and lawsuits against Hermitage, and for other gross violations of human rights in the Russian Federation, and for other purposes.

S. 1299

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1299, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of Lions Clubs International.

S. 1673

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1673, a bill to establish the Office of Agriculture Inspection within the Department of Homeland Security, which shall be headed by the Assistant Commissioner for Agriculture Inspection, and for other purposes.

S. 1728

At the request of Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1728, a bill to amend title 18, United

States Code, to establish a criminal offense relating to fraudulent claims about military service.

S. 1935

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) 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. 1947

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1947, a bill to prohibit attendance of an animal fighting venture, and for other purposes.

S. 2074

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) 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. 2264

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2264, a bill to provide liability protection for claims based on the design, manufacture, sale, offer for sale, introduction into commerce, or use of certain fuels and fuel additives, and for other purposes.

S. 2325

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) 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. 2374

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2374, a bill to amend the Helium Act to ensure the expedient and responsible draw-down of the Federal Helium Reserve in a manner that protects the interests of private industry, the scientific, medical, and industrial communities, commercial users, and Federal agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 2620

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2620, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an extension of the Medicare-dependent hospital (MDH) program and the increased payments under the Medicare low-volume hospital program.

S. 3204

At the request of Mr. JOHANNES, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors of S. 3204, a bill to address fee disclosure requirements under

the Electronic Fund Transfer Act, and for other purposes.

S. 3252

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) were added as cosponsors of S. 3252, a bill to provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Jack Nicklaus, in recognition of his service to the Nation in promoting excellence, good sportsmanship, and philanthropy.

S. 3340

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3340, a bill to improve and enhance the programs and activities of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs regarding suicide prevention and resilience and behavioral health disorders for members of the Armed Forces and veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 3364

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) were added as cosponsors of S. 3364, a bill to provide an incentive for businesses to bring jobs back to America.

S. 3394

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3394, a bill to address fee disclosure requirements under the Electronic Fund Transfer Act, to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act with respect to information provided to the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and for other purposes.

S. 3395

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3395, a bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to extend certain supplemental agricultural disaster assistance programs.

S.J. RES. 41

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 41, a joint resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the nuclear program of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

S. CON. RES. 46

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) and the Senator from Connecticut

(Mr. LIEBERMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 46, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that an appropriate site at the former Navy Dive School at the Washington Navy Yard should be provided for the Man in the Sea Memorial Monument to honor the members of the Armed Forces who have served as divers and whose service in defense of the United States has been carried out beneath the waters of the world.

S. RES. 428

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 428, a resolution condemning the Government of Syria for crimes against humanity, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 490

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WEBB) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 490, a resolution designating the week of September 16, 2012, as "Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week", reaffirming the importance of an enhanced and coordinated research effort on mitochondrial diseases, and commending the National Institutes of Health for its efforts to improve the understanding of mitochondrial diseases.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. SESSIONS (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 3396. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a national campaign to increase public awareness and knowledge of Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation, along with my friend and able colleague, Senator BEN CARDIN of Maryland, that would create a national campaign at the Department of Health and Human Services to bring attention to congenital diaphragmatic hernia.

What is CDH? It is a birth defect that occurs when the fetal diaphragm fails to fully develop, allowing abdominal organs to migrate up into the chest.

This invasion of organs—including the bowel, stomach, spleen, and liver—may severely limit the growth of a baby's lungs.

Regrettably, some have recommended terminating the pregnancy when a woman learns that her unborn child has CDH.

This is an important issue, and makes promoting awareness of this birth defect and the positive outcomes of good treatment especially important.

CDH will normally be diagnosed by prenatal ultrasound as early as the 16th week of pregnancy. That is important. If undiagnosed before birth, the baby may be born in a facility that is

not equipped to treat its compromised respiratory system because many CDH babies need to be placed on a heart-lung bypass machine, which is not available in many hospitals.

The lungs of a baby with CDH are often too small, biochemically immature, structurally immature, and the flow in the blood vessels may be constricted, resulting in pulmonary hypertension.

As a result, the babies are intubated as soon as they are born, and parents are often unable to hold their babies for weeks or even months at a time.

Most babies are repaired with surgery 1 to 5 days after birth, usually with a GORE-TEX patch. The abdominal organs that have migrated into the chest are put back where they are supposed to be and the hole in the diaphragm is closed, hopefully allowing the affected lungs to expand. However, hospitalization often ranges from 3 to 10 weeks, depending on the severity of the condition.

Survivors often have difficulty feeding, some require a second surgery to control reflux, others require a feeding tube, and a few will reherniate and require additional repair.

Congenital diaphragmatic hernia is a birth defect that occurs in 1 out of every 2,500 babies. Every 10 minutes a baby is born with CDH, adding up to more than 600,000 babies with CDH since just 2000. CDH is a severe, sometimes fatal defect that occurs as often as cystic fibrosis and spina bifida. Yet most people have never heard of CDH.

In my opinion, awareness and early diagnosis and skilled treatment are the keys to a greater survival rate in these babies. Fifty percent of the babies born with CDH do not survive.

In 2009, my grandson, Jim Beau, now 2½ years old, was diagnosed with CDH during my daughter Mary Abigail's 34th week of pregnancy. Although she had both a 20-week and a 30-week ultrasound, the nurses and doctors did not catch the disease on the baby's heartbeat monitor. Thankfully, when Mary Abigail and her Navy officer husband Paul and daughter Jane Ritchie moved to southeast Georgia, the baby's irregular heartbeat was heard at her first appointment with her new OB.

She was sent to Jacksonville, FL, for a fetal echo. The technician there told her she wasn't going to do the echo because there was something else wrong with the baby. She asked my daughter if she had ever heard of congenital diaphragmatic hernia. Of course, Mary Abigail had not, and at that time our family did not know of this problem or the extent of our grandson's birth defect.

The Navy temporarily allowed my daughter and her family to move to Gainesville, FL on November 16, and Jim Beau was born 2 weeks later on November 30. They heard their son cry out twice after he was born, right before they intubated him, but they were not allowed to hold him.

The doctors let his little lungs get strong before they did the surgery to

correct the hernia, when he was 4 days old. As it turned out, the hole in his diaphragm was large, and his intestines, spleen, and one kidney had moved up into his chest cavity. Thankfully, Jim Beau did not have to go on a heart-lung bypass machine, but he was on a ventilator for 12 days and on oxygen for 36. In total, he was in the NICU—the neonatal intensive care unit—for 43 days before he was able to go home, all under the constant watch of his angel mother. I could not have been prouder of her. She and Paul were wonderful during this time.

This country has superb health care—the world's best. Without even our knowledge, this young Navy family had their unborn child diagnosed and sent to a university hospital three hours away the University of Florida's Shands Hospital.

Fortunately for my family, and for thousands of other similar families across the United States, there are a number of physicians doing incredible work to combat CDH. By chance, the University of Florida's Shands Children's Hospital is surely one of the world's best—maybe the best. The CDH survival rate at Shands in Gainesville is unprecedented. The survival rate of CDH babies born at Shands is being reported at 80 to 90 percent, while the nationwide average is 50 percent.

Dr. David Kays, who directs the CDH program and who was the physician for my grandson's surgery, is a magnificent surgeon and physician. He uses gentle ventilation therapy as opposed to hyperventilation. Gentle ventilation therapy, he has discovered over the years, is less aggressive and therefore protects the underdeveloped lungs. Jim Beau, I have to say, is a wonderful little boy, full of energy and enthusiasm. He is active and happy—one of the most happy young children I have ever seen—and so quick to smile.

This weekend, he attended his big sister Jane Ritchie's 5 year birthday party and he was totally happy and running around, climbing over all the playground equipment, with the older children just as though he was one of them. He thought he was in high cotton to be playing with these big boys and girls.

While the challenges are many, so are the successes with this condition. Every year more is learned and there are more successes. My family has been very lucky that Jim Beau's defect was caught before he was born and that he was able to go to the right place—a first-rate place—to seek excellent care for his CDH.

The bill Senator CARDIN and I are introducing today is important because a national campaign for CDH will help bring awareness to this birth defect and save lives, I am convinced of it. Although hundreds of thousands of babies have been diagnosed with this defect, the causes are unknown and more research is needed. The thousands of happy, growing children who have overcome this condition validates what