

Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes to Implement Micro Entity Status for Pay Patient Fees" (RIN0651-AC78) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2012; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-8729. A communication from the Chair of the Board of Directors, Office of Compliance, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to recommendations for improvements to the Congressional Accountability Act; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-137 A resolution adopted by the Legislature of Rockland County, New York, memorializing Israel's right to exist and to take such actions as may be necessary to defend itself against outside attacks; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

Report to accompany S. 911, a bill to establish the sense of Congress that Congress should enact, and the President should sign, bipartisan legislation to strengthen public safety and to enhance wireless communications (Rept. No. 112-260).

Report to accompany S. 1449, a bill to authorize the appropriation of funds for highway safety programs and for other purposes (Rept. No. 112-261).

By Mr. AKAKA, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1262. A bill to improve Indian education, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 112-262).

By Mr. AKAKA, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with amendments:

S. 1684. A bill to amend the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act of 2005, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 112-263).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. LEVIN for the Committee on Armed Services.

Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. Lori J. Robinson, to be Lieutenant General.

Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. Gregory A. Biscone, to be Lieutenant General.

Air Force nomination of Col. Lisa A. Naftzger-Kang, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nominations beginning with Brigadier General William B. Binger and ending with Brigadier General Sheila Zuehlke, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 5, 2012.

Air Force nominations beginning with Brigadier General Paul L. Ayers and ending with Brigadier General Brian G. Neal, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 5, 2012.

Air Force nominations beginning with Colonel Stephanie A. Gass and ending with

Colonel Curtis L. Williams, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 5, 2012.

Air Force nomination of Lt. Gen. Stanley E. Clarke III, to be Lieutenant General.

Army nomination of Col. Jody J. Daniels, to be Brigadier General.

Army nomination of Maj. Gen. Bernard S. Champoux, to be Lieutenant General.

Army nomination of Col. Michael L. Scholes, to be Brigadier General.

Army nominations beginning with Colonel Christopher S. Ballard and ending with Colonel Robert P. Walters, Jr., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 10, 2012.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. (1h) Randolph L. Mahr, to be Rear Admiral.

Marine Corps nomination of Lt. Gen. Steven A. Hummer, to be Lieutenant General.

Marine Corps nomination of Lt. Gen. Richard T. Tryon, to be Lieutenant General.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, for the Committee on Armed Services I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

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

Air Force nominations beginning with Matthew W. Allinson and ending with Jeffrey D. Young, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 27, 2012.

Air Force nominations beginning with Johan K. Ahn and ending with Jeffrey S. Williams, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 5, 2012.

Air Force nominations beginning with Laura A. Brodhag and ending with John D. Klein, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 17, 2012.

Air Force nominations beginning with William R. Baez and ending with Bryce G. Whisler, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 17, 2012.

Air Force nominations beginning with Jake R. Atwood and ending with Michael R. Zachar, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 17, 2012.

Air Force nominations beginning with Kristen J. Beals and ending with Jianzhong J. Zhang, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 17, 2012.

Air Force nominations beginning with Tansel Acar and ending with Brandon H. Williams, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 17, 2012.

Air Force nominations beginning with Samuel E. Aikele and ending with Scott M. Zelasko, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 17, 2012.

Air Force nominations beginning with Homayoun R. Ahmadian and ending with Joe X. Zhang, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 17, 2012.

Army nomination of Robert W. Handy, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of James T. Seidule, to be Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Mark A. Nozaki and ending with Matthew D. Ramsey,

which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 27, 2012.

Army nominations beginning with Christopher J. Cummings and ending with Randolph O. Petgrave, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 27, 2012.

Army nominations beginning with Anthony C. Adolph and ending with Sean M. Wilson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 27, 2012.

Army nominations beginning with Ronald L. Baker and ending with Michael T. Wright, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 27, 2012.

Army nominations beginning with Terry L. Anderson and ending with G001094, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 27, 2012.

Army nominations beginning with Jose L. Aguilar and ending with D005615, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 27, 2012.

Army nomination of Michael D. Shortt, to be Major.

Army nomination of Delnora L. Erickson, to be Major.

Army nomination of Ronald D. Lain, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Matthew J. Burinskas, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Ronald G. Cook, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of David A. Cortese, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Charles J. Romero, to be Major.

Army nominations beginning with Michael D. Do and ending with Gregory S. Seese, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 5, 2012.

Army nominations beginning with Deepti S. Chitnis and ending with Gia K. Yi, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 10, 2012.

Army nominations beginning with Karin R. Bilyard and ending with Bethany S. Zarndt, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 10, 2012.

Army nominations beginning with James E. Andrews II and ending with D010617, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 10, 2012.

Army nominations beginning with Jacob W. Aaronson and ending with David W. Wolken, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 10, 2012.

Army nominations beginning with Silas C. Abrenica and ending with Kevin M. Zeeb, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 10, 2012.

Army nominations beginning with Lovie L. Abraham and ending with Vickie L. Wolcott, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 10, 2012.

Army nomination of Alfred C. Anderson, to be Major.

Army nomination of Deanna R. Beech, to be Major.

Army nominations beginning with Shrrrell L. Byard and ending with Soo B. Kim, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 17, 2012.

Army nominations beginning with Donald E. Layne and ending with Joseph F. Sucher,

which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 17, 2012.

Navy nominations beginning with David Sammett and ending with Timothy R. Durkin, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 27, 2012.

Navy nominations beginning with Timothy R. Anderson and ending with George B. Watkins, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 27, 2012.

Navy nomination of John T. Volpe, to be Commander.

Navy nomination of Tamara M. Sorensen, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Joseph N. Kenan, to be Lieutenant Commander.

By Mr. BAUCUS for the Committee on Finance.

*Albert G. Lauber, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for the term of fifteen years.

*Ronald Lee Buch, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

*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. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. CONRAD):

S. 3705. A bill to establish a commission to develop a national strategy and recommendations for reducing fatalities resulting from child abuse and neglect; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 3706. A bill to amend chapter 301 of title 49, United States Code, to prohibit the rental of motor vehicles that contain a defect related to motor vehicle safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 3707. A bill to authorize utilities to obtain national criminal history background checks of certain employees in sensitive positions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KYL:

S. 3708. A bill to encourage reporting of child abuse; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 3709. A bill to require a Government Accountability Office examination of transactions between large financial institutions and the Federal Government, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

By Mr. PAUL:

S.J. Res. 51. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service

of the Department of the Treasury relating to taxable medical devices; to the Committee on Finance.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 32

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 32, a bill to prohibit the transfer or possession of large capacity ammunition feeding devices, and for other purposes.

S. 35

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 35, a bill to establish background check procedures for gun shows.

S. 818

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 818, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to count a period of receipt of outpatient observation services in a hospital toward satisfying the 3-day inpatient hospital requirement for coverage of skilled nursing facility services under Medicare.

S. 847

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 847, a bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to ensure that risks from chemicals are adequately understood and managed, and for other purposes.

S. 1468

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1468, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to diabetes self-management training by authorizing certified diabetes educators to provide diabetes self-management training services, including as part of telehealth services, under part B of the Medicare program.

S. 3077

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3077, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition and celebration of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

S. 3338

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3338, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act and title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make the provision of technical services for medical imaging examinations and radiation therapy treatments safer, more accurate, and less costly.

AMENDMENT NO. 3350

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a co-

sponsor of amendment No. 3350 proposed to H.R. 1, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense and the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. CONRAD):

S. 3705. A bill to establish a commission to develop a national strategy and recommendations for reducing fatalities resulting from child abuse and neglect; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, Nelson Mandela, the former president of South Africa, once said "Safety and security don't just happen; they are the result of collective consensus and public investment. We owe our children, the most vulnerable citizens in our society, a life free of violence and fear."

Today, I echo that call to protect our most vulnerable citizens as I join Senators KERRY, COLLINS, CARDIN, SHAHEEN, SNOWE, and CONRAD to introduce the Protect Our Kids Act.

This important legislation establishes a special task force dedicated to reducing child abuse and neglect in America. Comprised of our Nation's top child welfare administrators and researchers, law enforcement officers, and other dedicated experts, this task force would study and evaluate federal, state, and private child welfare systems and develop a comprehensive national strategy to prevent and reduce these tragic acts of violence.

Since 2002, more than 15,000 children have died due to abuse and neglect. This number is based on state-reported Child Protection Services data. But advocates predict the true number is far greater.

We don't have clear facts because currently, there is no national standard for collecting data on these young victims. Many state child protection agencies do not share vital data and statistics with other agencies, officials, or law enforcement.

Clearly, more must be done to better protect our Nation's children. More must be done to protect them from the fear and terror of abuse, especially when the threat to their safety often comes from those that should cherish them the most.

We need to bring this issue out of the shadows. It starts by learning more about the tragic deaths of these children, so that we can prevent the senseless murders from happening again. That is what this task force will do. They will study the issue and develop a national strategy and recommendations for improvements throughout the child welfare system.

According to Child Protection Services data, in Montana we reported zero fatalities from child abuse and neglect