

Consumer Protection Act; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. WARREN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 452. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to reduce the incidence of diabetes among Medicare beneficiaries; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN (for herself, Mr. HELLER, and Mr. DONNELLY):

S. 453. A bill to require that certain Federal job training and career education programs give priority to programs that lead to an industry-recognized and nationally portable credential; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. BLUNT):

S. 454. A bill to promote the development of local strategies to coordinate use of assistance under sections 8 and 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 with public and private resources, to enable eligible families to achieve economic independence and self-sufficiency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. BEGICH, and Mr. MORAN):

S. 455. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to transport individuals to and from facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs in connection with rehabilitation, counseling, examination, treatment, and care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 456. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to establish an award program recognizing excellence exhibited by public school system employees providing services to students in prekindergarten through higher education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. BOXER, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 457. A bill to posthumously award a Congressional gold medal to Alice Paul, in recognition of her role in the women's suffrage movement and in advancing equal rights for women; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. JOHANNIS):

S. 458. A bill to improve and extend certain nutrition programs; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota (for himself and Mr. THUNE):

S. 459. A bill to modify the boundary of the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site in the State of South Dakota, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CASEY, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. BROWN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. COWAN):

S. 460. A bill to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. REID, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 461. A bill to exempt children of certain Filipino World War II veterans from the numerical limitations on immigrant visas and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CARDIN, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 462. A bill to enhance the strategic partnership between the United States and Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. PRYOR (for himself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. KING, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. CHAMBLISS):

S. 463. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to modify the definition of the term "biobased product"; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. COBURN, and Mr. CHAMBLISS):

S. 464. A bill to declare English as the official language of the United States, to establish a uniform English language rule for naturalization, and to avoid misconstructions of the English language texts of the laws of the United States, pursuant to Congress' powers to provide for the general welfare of the United States and to establish a uniform rule of naturalization under article I, section 8, of the Constitution; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. UDALL of Colorado):

S. 465. A bill to permit flexibility in the application of the budget sequester by Federal agencies; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 466. A bill to assist low-income individuals in obtaining recommended dental care; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 467. A bill to allow consumers to unlock mobile wireless devices for interoperability purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. HARKIN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. STABENOW, and Ms. WARREN):

S.J. Res. 10. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to equal rights for men and women; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BURR (for himself and Mr. SANDERS):

S. Res. 67. A resolution designating April 5, 2013, as "Gold Star Wives Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. REID, and Mr. COWAN):

S. Con. Res. 5. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that John Arthur "Jack" Johnson should receive a posthumous pardon for the racially motivated conviction in 1913 that diminished the athletic, cultural, and historic significance of Jack Johnson and unduly tarnished his reputation; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 17

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 17, a bill to stimulate the economy, produce domestic energy, and create jobs at no cost to the taxpayers, and without borrowing money from foreign governments for which our children and grandchildren will be responsible, and for other purposes.

S. 20

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 20, a bill to repeal the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

S. 33

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 33, a bill to prohibit the transfer or possession of large capacity ammunition feeding devices, and for other purposes.

S. 34

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 34, a bill to increase public safety by permitting the Attorney General to deny the transfer of firearms or the issuance of firearms and explosives licenses to known or suspected dangerous terrorists.

S. 44

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 44, a bill to improve patient access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the health care delivery system.

S. 77

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 77, a bill to amend part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate for lower prices for Medicare prescription drugs.

S. 168

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 168, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to prohibit discrimination in the payment of wages on account of sex, race, or national origin, and for other purposes.

S. 183

At the request of Mrs. McCASKILL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 183, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for fairness in hospital payments under the Medicare program.

S. 192

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Mississippi

(Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 192, a bill to enhance the energy security of United States allies, and for other purposes.

S. 210

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. McCASKILL) were added as cosponsors of S. 210, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to fraudulent representations about having received military decorations or medals.

S. 226

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 226, a bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to provide leave because of the death of a son or daughter.

S. 273

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 273, a bill to modify the definition of fiduciary under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to exclude appraisers of employee stock ownership plans.

S. 294

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 294, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the disability compensation evaluation procedure of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for veterans with mental health conditions related to military sexual trauma, and for other purposes.

S. 316

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 316, a bill to recalculate and restore retirement annuity obligations of the United States Postal Service, to eliminate the requirement that the United States Postal Service prefund the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund, to place restrictions on the closure of postal facilities, to create incentives for innovation for the United States Postal Service, to maintain levels of postal service, and for other purposes.

S. 333

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 333, a bill to establish certain duties for pharmacies to ensure provision of Food and Drug Administration-approved contraception, and for other purposes.

S. 336

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. COWAN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 336, a bill to restore States' sovereign rights to enforce State and local sales and use tax laws, and for other purposes.

S. 338

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 338, a bill to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 to provide consistent and reliable authority for, and for the funding of, the land and water conservation fund to maximize the effectiveness of the fund for future generations, and for other purposes.

S. 344

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 344, a bill to prohibit the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from approving the introduction into commerce of gasoline that contains greater than 10-volume-percent ethanol, and for other purposes.

S. 346

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) were added as cosponsors of S. 346, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit veterans who have a service-connected, permanent disability rated as total to travel on military aircraft in the same manner and to the same extent as retired members of the Armed Forces entitled to such travel.

S. 367

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 367, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps.

S. 370

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 370, a bill to improve and expand geographic literacy among kindergarten through grade 12 students in the United States by improving professional development programs for kindergarten through grade 12 teachers offered through institutions of higher education.

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 370, *supra*.

S. 372

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 372, a bill to provide for the reduction of unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, and the promotion of healthy relationships, and for other purposes.

S. 375

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 375, a bill to require Senate candidates to file designations,

statements, and reports in electronic form.

S. 380

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 380, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and update the National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative for grants to address the problems of individuals who experience trauma and violence related stress.

S. 392

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 392, a bill to support and encourage the health and well-being of elementary school and secondary school students by enhancing school physical education and health education.

S. 399

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 399, a bill to protect American job creation by striking the Federal mandate on employers to offer health insurance.

S. 411

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) were added as cosponsors of S. 411, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 427

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) were added as cosponsors of S. 427, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to provide flexibility to school food authorities in meeting certain nutritional requirements for the school lunch and breakfast programs, and for other purposes.

S. 443

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 443, a bill to increase public safety by punishing and deterring firearms trafficking.

S. RES. 26

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 26, a resolution recognizing that access to hospitals and other health care providers for patients in rural areas of the United States is essential to the survival and success of communities in the United States.

S. RES. 60

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 60, a resolution supporting women's reproductive health.

S. RES. 65

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Arkansas

(Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. McCASKILL), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANN), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 65, a resolution strongly supporting the full implementation of United States and international sanctions on Iran and urging the President to continue to strengthen enforcement of sanctions legislation.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. BLUNT):

S. 454. A bill to promote the development of local strategies to coordinate use of assistance under sections 8 and 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 with public and private resources, to enable eligible families to achieve economic independence and self-sufficiency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am reintroducing the Family Self-Sufficiency Act, and I am pleased this Congress to be joined in this effort by my colleague, Senator BLUNT of Missouri.

The Family Self-Sufficiency, FSS, program is an existing Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD, employment and savings incentive initiative for families that have section 8 vouchers or live in public housing. The FSS program provides two key tools for its participants: first, it provides access to the resources and training that help participants pursue employment opportunities and meet financial goals, and second, it encourages FSS families to save by establishing an interest-bearing escrow account for them. Upon graduation from the FSS program, the family can use these savings to pay for job-related expenses, such as additional workforce training or the purchase or maintenance of a car needed for commuting purposes.

Our bipartisan legislation seeks to enhance the FSS program by streamlining the administration of this program, by broadening the supportive services that can be provided to a participant, and by extending the FSS

program to tenants who live in privately-owned properties with project-based assistance. In short, we seek to make the FSS program easier to administer and more effective.

First, to streamline the FSS program, our bill would combine two separate FSS programs into one. Today, HUD operates one FSS program for those families served by the Housing Choice Voucher Program and another for those families served by the Public Housing program. This is the case even though the core purpose of each FSS program, to increase economic independence and self-sufficiency, is the same. Unfortunately, Public Housing Agencies, PHA, have to operate essentially two programs to achieve the same goal. With our bill, PHAs would be relieved of this unnecessary burden.

Second, our legislation broadens the scope of the supportive services that may be offered to include attainment of a GED, education in pursuit of a post-secondary degree or certification, and training in financial literacy. Providing families in need with affordable rental housing is critical, but coupling it with the support and services to help families get ahead increases the effectiveness of this federal investment. Our legislation makes it easier for FSS participants to obtain the training necessary to secure employment and the education to make prudent financial decisions to better safeguard their earnings.

Lastly, our bill opens up the FSS program to families who live in privately-owned properties subsidized with project-based rental assistance. It shouldn't matter what kind of housing assistance a family gets, and families seeking to achieve self-sufficiency shouldn't be held back by this sort of technicality.

I thank Senator BLUNT for his partnership, and I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill, which will help give those receiving housing assistance a better chance to build their skills and achieve economic independence.

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. JOHANN):

S. 458. A bill to improve and extend certain nutrition programs; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, my colleagues, I rise today to introduce a bill that has a long title: Improve Nutrition Program Integrity and Deficit Reduction Act of 2013. Big title, but it is a good bill.

Last June, I stood in this body, along with Chairperson STABENOW of the Agriculture Committee, to encourage my colleagues to pass bipartisan reform legislation known as the farm bill.

The legislation we put together in the Senate Agriculture Committee would have strengthened and preserved the safety net for our farmers and ranchers while also being responsible to taxpayers by providing billions of

dollars for deficit reduction. At the time we were told by the Congressional Budget Office, the CBO, that the farm bill passed by the Agriculture Committee, one of the first bills, by the way, that we were able to pass under regular order and in record amount of time, 2½ days—the CBO estimated at that time the farm bill that was passed by the Agriculture Committee in the Senate would save \$24 billion over 10 years, including \$4 billion from the nutrition title.

However, according to the latest CBO projections, a projection that has reverberated in farm country, released just last Friday, the farm bill we passed last year would now only save \$13 billion and no longer represents savings in the nutrition title. We could have done more last year, and we must do more this year to rein in the largest expenditure within the Department of Agriculture budget.

No, it does not go to farmers. We are talking about specifically the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, called SNAP, more commonly known as food stamps.

In the context of sequestration, SNAP was exempted from any across-the-board cuts, along with Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security. It was in that pasture. A lot of other things were in different pastures, especially national security.

However, it is clear there are several areas within the program that could provide significant savings that were, unfortunately, left untouched. The legislation I introduce today, along with Senator JOHANN and Senator THUNE, builds off of several amendments previously offered in a piecemeal fashion. We have wrapped them all together. Each should be enacted, but combined in this bill they represent over \$36 billion in savings.

By eliminating loopholes, duplicative programs, unnecessary bonuses, inflation adjustments, and restricting lottery winners from receiving benefits, this legislation will instill and restore integrity to SNAP while still providing benefits to those truly in need. I ought to repeat that this restores integrity to SNAP while still providing benefits to those truly in need.

I am not proposing a dramatic change in the policy of nutrition programs. Instead, this legislation enforces the principles of good government and returns SNAP spending to much more responsible levels. While saving over \$36 billion, our legislation also makes commonsense and comprehensive reforms to SNAP, the Food Stamp Program, that can and should be enacted immediately.

Over one-half of the SNAP food benefits in our country are utilized by households with children, and SNAP can play, and does play, a critical role in helping people put food on the table in times of need. However, at least 17 States, I am sorry to report, 17 States are gaming the system by designing their Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program—the acronym for that is