

Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to apply payroll taxes to remuneration and earnings from self-employment up to the contribution and benefit base and to remuneration in excess of \$250,000.

S. 504

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 504, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to ensure that valid generic drugs may enter the market.

S. 505

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 505, a bill to prohibit the use of drones to kill citizens of the United States within the United States.

S.J. RES. 10

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. CON. RES. 6

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 6, a concurrent resolution supporting the Local Radio Freedom Act.

S. RES. 4

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 4, a resolution to limit certain uses of the filibuster in the Senate to improve the legislative process.

S. RES. 65

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) and the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) 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 Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 511. A bill to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to enhance the Small Business Investment Company Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to introduce

the Expanding Access to Capital for Entrepreneurial Leaders Act, or the EXCEL Act. This legislation will enhance the already successful Small Business Investment Company, SBIC, program at the Small Business Administration, SBA, that has helped over 100,000 small businesses. The best part of this bill is that the EXCEL Act should not cost the taxpayer anything.

The SBA runs a venture capital program by guaranteeing money borrowed by qualified investment funds who invest in small businesses. The qualified funds, or Small Business Investment Companies, SBICs, are privately owned and operated, but licensed and regulated by the SBA. Using a combination of private investments and the loans guaranteed by the SBA, typically at a ratio of \$2 in guaranteed funds for every \$1 of private capital, SBICs make longterm investments in American small businesses. In order to participate in the program, funds pay licensing fees which serve to cover all SBIC program costs. As a result, the core SBIC program, Debenture SBICs, not only boasts a strong success rate, but also incurs no cost to the U.S. government. Since the program's inception, over \$50 billion has been invested in over 100,000 small businesses.

In the last Congress, the former Ranking Member of the Small Business Committee, Senator Olympia Snowe, and I conducted a roundtable with 14 participants from the SBA, SBICs, SBIC investors, and small businesses to elicit suggestions on enhancing the program. Out of that was born the EXCEL Act.

The EXCEL Act is a bipartisan effort encompassing much-needed changes that will allow the SBIC program to meet growing demand and will make improvements so that more small businesses can access capital.

First, the EXCEL Act raises the SBIC program authorization level from \$3 billion to \$4 billion and pegs it to inflation. This change is long overdue—the ceiling has been at \$3 billion for some time, despite inflation and the impressive growth in the SBIC program. To illustrate: the program grew 50 percent in fiscal year 2011 alone. In order to meet demand, we need to give the program room to grow.

Secondly, the EXCEL Act will encourage successful investors by raising the limit on "families of funds." Family of funds refers to a team of SBIC fund managers who operate several funds. These are currently limited to \$225 million of SBA-guaranteed debt. However, SBIC fund managers who manage more than one fund generally see better investment results. The EXCEL Act will encourage that kind of success by giving families of funds a higher limit of \$350 million, which will be indexed to inflation.

Next, the EXCEL Act improves transparency and accountability in the program. The legislation requires that the SBA make public how effective individual SBICs are in their small busi-

ness investments, guaranteeing that SBA-backed money is being used responsibly.

Finally, the EXCEL Act promotes outreach, thereby ensuring that the maximum possible number of small businesses can benefit from the SBIC program. The legislation encourages outreach to community banks and other lenders, states and municipalities, and asks the SBA to make their SBIC website more user-friendly.

The EXCEL Act contains a number of commonsense provisions that have had support across the aisle. It enhances a program with proven success in providing capital to small businesses, and does so with the expectation that it will not add a dime to the deficit. Let us get this bill passed. Let us help small businesses excel.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. LEE, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 517. A bill to promote consumer choice and wireless competition by permitting consumers to unlock mobile wireless devices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today I am introducing bipartisan legislation that will help promote competition in the wireless industry and restore consumer choice. From 2006 until last year, an exemption to the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, DMCA, permitted cell phone users to "unlock" their cell phones when their contract expired, allowing them to change wireless providers and thereby promoting consumer choice. This exemption has enhanced competition in the cell phone market, but it was allowed to expire last year.

Over the past few weeks and months, consumers have spoken clearly—they want to retain the right to transfer their cell phones between wireless providers, if they so choose, when their contracts expire. I agree, which is why today I am pleased to introduce the Unlocking Consumer Choice and Wireless Competition Act, along with Senator GRASSLEY, Senator HATCH, Senator LEE and Senator FRANKEN, who chairs the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology and the Law. We are working closely with Chairman GOODLATTE and members of the House Judiciary Committee to pass commonsense legislation and provide consumers with better choice.

The Unlocking Consumer Choice and Wireless Competition Act reestablishes the Library of Congress's rule permitting cell phone unlocking. It also directs the Library to undertake a new proceeding to consider whether to broaden this exemption to allow unlocking of other wireless devices such as tablets. At a time when the line between phone and tablet is beginning to blur, it makes sense for the Library to consider extending this exemption to those devices as well.

The DMCA maintains an important balance between protecting copyright owners and users. It was designed to be sufficiently flexible to meet the challenges of an ever-evolving digital copyright world. Every 3 years, the Library of Congress conducts its public review of the exemptions permitted under the DMCA to help promote that flexibility. Unfortunately, in its most recent proceeding, there was not a sufficient record for the Library to continue the cell phone exemption, despite the strong merits of the rule. Our legislation restores the important exemption that had been in effect in previous years. Although Congress has stepped in in this instance to restore an important policy objective, I urge parties in future rulemakings to provide a more full record so that the rulemaking process can proceed as it was designed.

When I wrote the DMCA, the law was intended to allow choice and protect consumers. This straightforward restoring bill furthers that objective. When consumers finish the terms of their contract, they should be able to keep their phones and make their own decision about which wireless provider to use. They should not be forced to stay with their original provider due to software that restricts a phone to only one network. I am pleased that many wireless providers already sell unlocked phones, or will unlock phones for consumers once contracts expire, but that does not mean that consumers should face penalties under the DMCA for taking those same steps on their own. This bill will protect and promote competition in the wireless market by allowing consumers to bring their phones with them to the provider that best suits their needs.

I urge all Senators to support this narrow, commonsense legislation to protect consumers and promote competition.

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. 517

*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 “Unlocking Consumer Choice and Wireless Competition Act”.

#### SEC. 2. REPEAL OF EXISTING RULE AND ADDITIONAL RULEMAKING BY LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS.

(a) REPEAL AND REPLACE.—Paragraph (3) of section 201.40(b) of title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, as amended and revised by the Librarian of Congress on October 28, 2012, pursuant to his authority under section 1201(a) of title 17, United States Code, shall have no force and effect, and such paragraph shall read, and shall be in effect, as such paragraph was in effect on July 27, 2010.

(b) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Librarian of Congress, upon the recommendation of the Register of Copyrights, who shall consult with the Assistant Sec-

retary for Communications and Information of the Department of Commerce and report and comment on his or her views in making such recommendation, shall determine, consistent with the requirements set forth under section 1201(a)(1) of title 17, United States Code, whether to extend the exemption for the class of works described in section 201.40(b)(3) of title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, as amended by subsection (a), to include any other category of wireless devices in addition to wireless telephone handsets.

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act alters, or shall be construed to alter, the authority of the Librarian of Congress under section 1201(a)(1) of title 17, United States Code.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 519. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improve early education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Providing Resources Early for Kids Act of 2013—the PRE-K Act.

Research shows that quality early education is foundational for success in school and in life.

The PRE-K Act will help more children enter school ready to succeed. It creates a new federal-state partnership to provide better preschool opportunities for our country’s children. High quality preschool makes the biggest difference, so this bill focuses on quality.

The PRE-K Act would provide Federal grants to States to strengthen quality. States could use the funding to increase the number of highly trained early educators in preschool classrooms.

The bill would improve the student-to-teacher ratios in preschools; provide vital comprehensive services such as health screenings and nutritional assistance.

The bill would increase the hours per day and weeks per year families have access to high quality early education programs; and improve programs for our youngest children, from birth to three years old.

States would need to coordinate with existing Head Start providers and their State Advisory Councils.

The PRE-K Act recognizes that not all states have a high-quality state preschool program in place yet. This bill meets states where they are. States that already have a high-quality program could apply as “Qualified States” and get money improve quality and expand to serve more children. Other States, like Hawaii, could apply as “Selected States,” earning Federal grants to establish a high-quality preschool program within two years.

In Hawaii, Governor Abercrombie is leading the fight to build a State pre-

school program for low-income families. The PRE-K Act could support Hawaii’s efforts through Federal partnership grants.

Decades of research show that high quality early education programs can help kids enter kindergarten ready to learn and avoid falling behind. Later in life, kids who have high-quality preschool are more likely to avoid crime or teen pregnancy, graduate high school and college, earn more income, pay taxes, and need fewer public services.

The studies have found that investing \$1 in quality early learning can bring a return on investment of between \$2 and \$17 down the line. A University of Hawaii/Good Beginnings Alliance study of a theoretical Hawaii program found we’d get \$4.20 for every \$1 invested. In this tight fiscal environment, wise Federal spending is key. High quality early learning is one of the best investments we can make.

That is why business and financial leaders, from the Hawaii Business Roundtable to Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, agree that quality early education is critically important in providing the tools children need for success in school and in adulthood.

Law enforcement officials know that quality early learning helps prevent kids from falling behind, dropping out of high school, or getting involved in crime. High-ranking military leaders have also stressed the importance of quality early education as a national security issue. Today 75 percent of Americans age 17 to 24 are ineligible for military service due to poor education, physical un-fitness, or involvement with crime. Quality early learning helps kids get on the right path—before they fall behind.

Parents know the high cost of child care is difficult to afford. If parents can’t find child care, they can’t go to work. Parents also want more than just supervision for their children. They want to know their children are being engaged by effective teachers who are preparing them academically, socially, and emotionally for success in school.

Teachers and school administrators know firsthand that their students who come to kindergarten with quality preschool are more likely to succeed. Special education professionals and advocates for students with disabilities know that quality early learning can identify disabilities early and bring intervention to get kids on track with their peers.

Education is the great equalizer, and starting children on an early path to success is critical. I have been working to strengthen quality early education for over a decade. As Lieutenant Governor, I helped establish Hawaii’s Pre-Plus program, which constructed preschool classrooms for use by nonprofit, private, or public preschools. In the U.S. House of Representatives, I first introduced the PRE-K Act in 2007. The

bill passed through the House Education and Labor Committee with a bipartisan vote. President Obama has made quality early learning a key part of his education platform. I helped lead a coalition of over 100 bipartisan House members to enact and fund President Obama's Early Learning Challenge. We also fought for increases in Head Start and Child Care subsidies to serve more children and families.

In his 2013 State of the Union address, President Obama called for new Federal support for high-quality state preschool. This is the first time in a generation that a president has used the State of the Union address to call for expanding preschool access. The PRE-K Act answers this call.

The time is right. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House and Senate to move this forward.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. HARKIN):

S. 521. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to award grants to fund research on orthotics and prosthetics; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I want to tell you about a wounded warrior.

He was fitted with a prosthetic leg that fit reasonably well and he was able to carry on with his life. But from time to time his leg would give out.

He would fall, but he carried on.

Then he and his wife were blessed with their first child. He was immensely happy to be a father. But he was terrified to hold his baby.

He was afraid that his leg would give out and he would fall and hurt his baby.

Can you imagine going to war to make the world safe for your children and then being afraid to hold your own child?

One day this young father mentioned his fear to a prosthetics practitioner, who began researching other prosthetic legs and was able to find a leg that fit him better and was more stable.

Finally, that new father was able to hold his baby without fear.

Most Americans will never need for a prosthetic limb. But many do. They include people who suffer catastrophic injuries in battle and accidents and others who lose limbs to illnesses such as cancer and diabetes.

For these people, proper-fitting, advanced prosthetics and orthotics fitted by highly trained, experienced clinicians can mean the difference between constant pain and discomfort—and a certain amount of anxiety, or living a happier, healthier and more productive life.

Let me tell you about another veteran who lives in Illinois.

He lost a leg in Vietnam.

He was fitted with a prosthetic leg that included a hydraulic knee unit. That was the state of the art decades ago.

Several times a year he would fall. Many of the falls resulted in broken bones and other injuries.

This veteran was also overweight, with high blood pressure.

About 6 years ago, he was fitted with his first computer-controlled knee.

He had more stability and more range of motion. He moved with more confidence.

With his new, advanced knee, he was able to exercise. He lost weight.

His health improved and he was able to stop taking multiple medications. He is living a happier, healthier life.

Finding the right prosthetic is more than luck or guess work. It requires a great deal of education, training and experience. There are many talented prosthetic clinicians working today in Veterans Administration Hospitals and other hospitals and rehabilitation clinics.

But we have a problem. Just as the need for these health professionals is increasing, many are retiring.

Wounded warriors deserve the best medical care our grateful Nation has to offer.

Today, with Senators BLUMENTHAL and HARKIN, I am introducing two bills to help ensure that service members and veterans who need prosthetics receive the care and equipment they deserve.

The first bill, the Wounded Warrior Workforce Enhancement Act, will establish a competitive grant program at the Department of Veterans Affairs to train more health professionals in the fields of orthotics and prosthetics.

These grants can be used to create new degree programs or expand existing programs in these fields.

Our bill will also require the VA to establish a Center of Excellence in Prosthetic and Orthotic Education to research and share information about the knowledge, skills, and training clinical professionals in the field need the most.

The work at the Center would add to higher education's clinical expertise to train the students going into prosthetics and orthotics.

The second bill we are introducing today, the Wounded Warrior Research Enhancement Act, directs the Secretary of Defense to establish an ongoing program of research and best practices in orthotics and prosthetics care.

We ask OD to then make sure clinical professionals serving service members and veterans are kept up to date on innovations in technology and care.

In the wars in both Iraq and Afghanistan, tens of thousands of our service members have been wounded by roadside bombs, rocket propelled grenades and small arms fire.

As our involvement in these wars winds down, many returning veterans are living with complex wounds that require sophisticated prosthetics and orthotics.

We can build on the breakthrough advances made by researchers at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago and by private providers such as Scheck & Siress, founded in Oak Park, IL.

Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, is home to the largest and

oldest prosthetics and orthotics program in the Western Hemisphere.

It offers first-rate master's level education and training and graduates 50 clinicians every year.

Northwestern can be a model for other universities around the country to meet the needs of veteran amputees.

New technologies are improving the quality of life for amputees. We need to make sure that clinicians in the field have the skills and training to help veterans take advantage of these advances.

Recently the standard for entry-level qualifications for clinicians in prosthetics was changed to require a master's degree.

That makes sense. There is a lot to know. But right now there are not enough master's degree programs in our universities to meet the current demands for prosthetics and orthotics technicians.

Many experienced clinicians are nearing retirement age.

Veterans are not the only people who benefit when we train more clinicians in the fields of prosthetics and orthotics.

As America's population ages and rates of diabetes and cardiovascular disease increase, more Americans find themselves in need of prosthetics and orthotics. They, too, will benefit from this investment in research and training.

When we ask our service members to risk their lives for us, they don't say, "Ask me later." They go.

If they come home needing a new limb, we shouldn't tell them, "Ask me later."

We know that the VA is facing a critical and impending shortage of clinicians who are trained in prosthetics and orthotics.

By working together now, we can prevent that shortage and help America's wounded warriors live the fullest lives possible. I hope my colleagues will join me in this effort.

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. 521

*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 "Wounded Warrior Research Enhancement Act".

#### SEC. 2. ORTHOTIC AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the grants described in this section is to advance orthotic and prosthetic clinical care for members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and civilians who have undergone amputation, traumatic brain injury, and other serious physical injury as a result of combat or military experience.

(b) GRANTS FOR RESEARCH ON PATIENT OUTCOMES.—The Secretary of Defense shall award grants to persons to carry out research on the following:

(1) The actions that can be taken to prevent amputation of limbs.

(2) The point in the course of patient treatment during which orthotic and prosthetic intervention is most effective.

(3) The orthotic interventions that are most effective in treating the physical effects of traumatic brain injury.

(4) The patients that benefit most from particular orthotic and prosthetic technologies.

(5) The orthotic and prosthetic services that best facilitate the return to active duty of members of the Armed Forces.

(6) The effect of the aging process on the use of prosthetics, including—

(A) increased skin breakdown;

(B) loss of balance;

(C) falls; and

(D) other issues that arise during the aging process.

(c) **GRANTS ON MATERIALS RESEARCH.**—The Secretary shall award grants to persons to carry out research on the following:

(1) The improvement of existing materials used in orthotics and prosthetics for the purpose of improving quality of life and health outcomes for individuals with limb loss.

(2) The development of new materials used in orthotics and prosthetics for the purpose of improving quality of life and health outcomes for individuals with limb loss.

(d) **GRANTS ON TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH.**—The Secretary shall award grants to persons to carry out research on the following:

(1) The improvement of existing orthotic and prosthetic technology and devices for the purpose of improving quality of life and health outcomes for individuals with limb loss.

(2) The development of new orthotic and prosthetic technology and devices for the purpose of improving quality of life and health outcomes for individuals with limb loss.

(e) **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS.**—A person seeking the award of a grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary an application therefore in the form and accompanied by such information as the Secretary shall require.

(f) **AWARD REQUIREMENTS.**—

(1) **PEER-REVIEWED PROPOSALS.**—Grants under this section may be awarded only for research that is peer-reviewed.

(2) **COMPETITIVE PROCEDURES.**—Grants under this section shall be awarded through competitive procedures.

(g) **GRANT USE.**—A person awarded a grant under subsection (b), (c), or (d) shall use the grant amount to carry out the research described in the applicable subsection.

(h) **REPORTS.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Defense shall, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, veterans, community-based clinicians, and expert researchers in the field of orthotics and prosthetics, submit to Congress a report setting forth the following:

(1) An agenda for orthotic and prosthetic research that identifies and prioritizes the most significant unanswered orthotic and prosthetic research questions pertinent to the provision of evidence-based clinical care to members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and civilians.

(2) For each report after the initial report under this subsection—

(A) a summary of how the grants awarded under subsection (b) are addressing the most significant orthotic and prosthetic needs; and

(B) the progress made towards resolving orthotic and prosthetic challenges facing members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

(i) **VETERAN DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “veteran” has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

(j) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2014 for the Department of Defense for the Defense Health Program, \$30,000,000 to carry out this section.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. HARKIN):

S. 522. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to award grants to establish, or expand upon, master’s degree or doctoral degree programs in orthotics and prosthetics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

Mr. DURBIN. 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. 522

*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 “Wounded Warrior Workforce Enhancement Act”.

**SEC. 2. ORTHOTICS AND PROSTHETICS EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT.**

(a) **GRANTS REQUIRED.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall award grants to eligible institutions to enable the eligible institutions—

(A) to establish a master’s degree or doctoral degree program in orthotics and prosthetics; or

(B) to expand upon an existing master’s degree program in orthotics and prosthetics, including by admitting more students, further training faculty, expanding facilities, or increasing cooperation with the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense.

(2) **PRIORITY.**—The Secretary shall give priority in the award of grants under this section to eligible institutions that have entered into a partnership with a medical center or clinic administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs or a facility administered by the Department of Defense, including by providing clinical rotations at such medical center, clinic, or facility.

(3) **GRANT AMOUNTS.**—Grants awarded under this section shall be in amounts of not less than \$1,000,000 and not more than \$1,500,000.

(b) **REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter for two years, the Secretary shall issue a request for proposals from eligible institutions for grants under this section.

(2) **PROPOSALS.**—An eligible institution that seeks the award of a grant under this section shall submit an application therefor to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may require, including—

(A) demonstration of a willingness and ability to participate in a partnership described in subsection (a)(2); and

(B) a commitment, and demonstration of an ability, to maintain an accredited orthotics and prosthetics education program after the end of the grant period.

(c) **GRANT USES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—An eligible institution awarded a grant under this section shall use grant amounts to carry out any of the following:

(A) Building new or expanding existing orthotics and prosthetics master’s or doctoral programs.

(B) Training doctoral candidates in fields related to orthotics and prosthetics to prepare them to instruct in orthotics and prosthetics programs.

(C) Training faculty in orthotics and prosthetics education or related fields for the purpose of instruction in orthotics and prosthetics programs.

(D) Salary supplementation for faculty in orthotics and prosthetics education.

(E) Financial aid that allows eligible institutions to admit additional students to study orthotics and prosthetics.

(F) Funding faculty research projects or faculty time to undertake research in the areas of orthotics and prosthetics for the purpose of furthering their teaching abilities.

(G) Renovation of buildings or minor construction to house orthotics and prosthetics education programs.

(H) Purchasing equipment for orthotics and prosthetics education.

(2) **LIMITATION ON CONSTRUCTION.**—An eligible institution awarded a grant under this section may use not more than 50 percent of the grant amount to carry out paragraph (1)(G).

(3) **ADMISSIONS PREFERENCE.**—An eligible institution awarded a grant under this section shall give preference in admission to the orthotics and prosthetics master’s or doctoral programs to veterans, to the extent practicable.

(4) **PERIOD OF USE OF FUNDS.**—An eligible institution awarded a grant under this section may use the grant funds for a period of three years after the award of the grant.

(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) The term “eligible institution” means an educational institution that offers an orthotics and prosthetics education program that—

(A) is accredited by the National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education in cooperation with the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (referred to in this section as the “National Commission”); or

(B) demonstrates an ability to meet the accreditation requirements for orthotic and prosthetic education from the National Commission if the institution receives a grant under this section.

(2) The term “veteran” has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

(e) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—There is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2014 for the Department of Veterans Affairs, \$15,000,000 to carry out this section. The amount so authorized to be appropriated shall remain available for obligation until September 30, 2016.

(2) **UNOBLIGATED AMOUNTS TO BE RETURNED TO THE TREASURY.**—Any amounts authorized to be appropriated by paragraph (1) that are not obligated by the Secretary as of September 30, 2016, shall be returned to the Treasury of the United States.

**SEC. 3. CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN ORTHOTIC AND PROSTHETIC EDUCATION.**

(a) **GRANT FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTER.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall award a grant to an eligible institution to enable the eligible institution to—

(A) establish the Center of Excellence in Orthotic and Prosthetic Education (hereafter in this section referred to as the “Center”); and

(B) enable the eligible institution to improve orthotic and prosthetic outcomes for veterans, members of the Armed Forces, and civilians by conducting evidence-based research on—

(i) the knowledge, skills, and training most needed by clinical professionals in the field of orthotics and prosthetics; and

(ii) how to most effectively prepare clinical professionals to provide effective, high-quality orthotic and prosthetic care.

(2) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give priority in the award of a grant under this section to an eligible institution that has in force, or demonstrates the willingness and ability to enter into, a memoranda of understanding with the Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Defense, or other appropriate Government agency, or a cooperative agreement with an appropriate private sector entity, which memorandum of understanding or cooperative agreement provides for either, or both, of the following:

(A) The provision of resources, whether in cash or in kind, to the Center.

(B) To assist the Center in research and the dissemination of the results of such research.

(3) GRANT AMOUNT.—The grant awarded under this section shall be in the amount of \$5,000,000.

(b) REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue a request for proposals from eligible institutions for a grant under this section.

(2) PROPOSALS.—An eligible institution that seeks the award of the grant under this section shall submit an application therefor to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may require.

(c) GRANT USES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The eligible institution awarded the grant under this section shall use the grant amount for purposes as follows:

(A) To develop an agenda for orthotics and prosthetics education research.

(B) To fund research in the area of orthotics and prosthetics education.

(C) To publish or otherwise disseminate research findings relating to orthotics and prosthetics education.

(2) PERIOD OF USE OF FUNDS.—The eligible institution awarded the grant under this section may use the grant amount for a period of five years after the award of the grant.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “eligible institution” means an educational institution that—

(A) has a robust research program;

(B) offers an orthotics and prosthetics education program that is accredited by the National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education in cooperation with the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs;

(C) is well recognized in the field of orthotics and prosthetics education; and

(D) has an established association with—

(i) a medical center or clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

(ii) a local rehabilitation hospital.

(2) The term “veteran” has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2014 for the Department of Veterans Affairs, \$5,000,000 to carry out this section.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

### SENATE RESOLUTION 74—SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BEGICH, Mr.

CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 74

Whereas there are more than 3,300,000,000 women in the world today;

Whereas women around the world participate in the political, social, and economic life of their communities, play a critical role in providing and caring for their families, contribute substantially to the growth of economies, and, as both farmers and caregivers, play an important role in advancing food security for their communities;

Whereas the advancement of women around the world is a foreign policy priority for the United States;

Whereas, on January 30, 2013, President Barack Obama signed a presidential memorandum recognizing the need for “dedicated professionals with . . . expertise and stature” to sustain advances in the status of women and girls worldwide and directing the Secretary of State to ensure that an Ambassador-at-Large continues to lead the Office of Global Women's Issues;

Whereas, on December 19, 2011, the Obama Administration launched the first-ever United States National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security that included a comprehensive set of national commitments to advance the active participation of women in decision making relating to matters of war and peace;

Whereas President Obama said, “[o]ur common prosperity will be advanced by allowing all humanity—men and women—to reach their full potential”;

Whereas, on August 10, 2012, President Obama announced the first interagency Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence Globally;

Whereas the ability of women to realize their full potential is critical to the ability of a country to achieve strong and lasting economic growth and political and social stability;

Whereas, according to the International Monetary Fund, “focusing on the needs and empowerment of women is one of the keys to human development”;

Whereas, according to the 2012 World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap Report, “reducing gender inequality enhances productivity and economic growth”;

Whereas, according to the World Bank 2012 World Development Report: Gender Equality and Development, “greater gender equality is also smart economics, enhancing productivity and improving other development outcomes, including prospects for the next generation and for the quality of societal policies and institutions”;

Whereas, although strides have been made in recent decades, women around the world continue to face significant obstacles in all aspects of their lives, including underrepresentation in all aspects of public life, denial of basic human rights, and discrimination;

Whereas, despite some achievements by individual women leaders, women around the world are still vastly underrepresented in high level positions and in national and local legislatures and governments and, according to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, women account for only 20.3 percent of national parliamentarians;

Whereas women remain underrepresented in conflict prevention and conflict resolution efforts, despite proven successes by women in conflict-affected regions in moderating

violent extremism, resolving disputes through non-violent mediation and negotiation, and stabilizing their societies by improving access to peace and security services, institutions, and decision-making venues;

Whereas, according to the United Nations, 1 in 3 women around the world has experienced some form of gender-based violence and 1 in 4 women has been abused during pregnancy;

Whereas, according to the World Health Organization, as many as 1 in 5 women report being sexually abused before the age of 15;

Whereas, according to UNESCO, women account for 64 percent of the 796,000,000 adults worldwide who lack basic literacy skills;

Whereas, according to the United Nations Population Fund, 1 in 9 girls in developing countries (excluding the People's Republic of China) will be married before the age of 15;

Whereas, according to Save the Children, pregnancy-related complications are a leading cause of death among girls between the ages of 15 and 19 in developing countries;

Whereas, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization, the majority of women living in rural areas of the developing world are heavily engaged in agricultural labor, yet they receive less credit, land, agricultural inputs, and training than their male counterparts;

Whereas it is imperative to alleviate violence and discrimination against women and afford them every opportunity to be full and productive members of their communities; and

Whereas March 8 is recognized each year as International Women's Day, a global day to celebrate the economic, political, and social achievements of women past, present, and future, and a day to recognize the obstacles that women still face in the struggle for equal rights and opportunities: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals of International Women's Day;

(2) recognizes that the empowerment of women is inextricably linked to the potential of countries to generate economic growth, sustainable democracy, and inclusive security;

(3) recognizes and honors the women in the United States and around the world who have worked throughout history to ensure that women are guaranteed equality and basic human rights;

(4) reaffirms its commitment to ending discrimination and violence against women and girls, to ensuring the safety and welfare of women and girls, and to pursuing policies that guarantee the basic human rights of women and girls worldwide; and

(5) encourages the people of the United States to observe International Women's Day with appropriate programs and activities.

## AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 26. Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

## TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 26. Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) submitted an amendment