

(Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 452, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to reduce the incidence of diabetes among Medicare beneficiaries.

S. 462

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 462, a bill to enhance the strategic partnership between the United States and Israel.

S. 470

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 470, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to require that the Purple Heart occupy a position of precedence above the new Distinguished Warfare Medal.

S. 480

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, his name was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 480, a bill to improve the effectiveness of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System by clarifying reporting requirements related to adjudications of mental incompetency, and for other purposes.

S. 482

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 482, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide protections for consumers against excessive, unjustified, or unfairly discriminatory increases in premium rates.

S. 484

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 484, a bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act relating to lead-based paint renovation and remodeling activities.

S. 495

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 495, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require Federal agencies to hire veterans, to require States to recognize the military experience of veterans when issuing licenses and credentials to veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 526

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 526, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions, and for other purposes.

S. 534

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

(Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 534, a bill to reform the National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers, and for other purposes.

S. 542

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 542, a bill to provide limitations on maritime liens on fishing licenses and for other purposes.

S. 603

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 603, a bill to repeal the annual fee on health insurance providers enacted by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. 617

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 617, a bill to provide humanitarian assistance and support a democratic transition in Syria, and for other purposes.

S. 629

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 629, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to recognize the service in the reserve components of the Armed Forces of certain persons by honoring them with status as veterans under law, and for other purposes.

S. 631

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 631, a bill to allow Americans to earn paid sick time so that they can address their own health needs and the health needs of their families.

S. CON. RES. 6

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

S. CON. RES. 7

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 7, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding conditions for the United States becoming a signatory to the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty, or to any similar agreement on the arms trade.

S. RES. 26

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) were added as cosponsors 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. 75

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 75, a resolution condemning the Government of Iran for its state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 667. A bill to amend the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 to allow the rebuilding, without elevation, of certain structures that are located in areas having special flood hazards and are substantially damaged by fire, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Fire-Damaged Home Rebuilding Act.

This legislation is simple. It allows families living in FEMA-designated flood plains to rebuild their home in the event it is destroyed by fire.

The bill allows communities to waive requirements that were meant to block reconstruction after floods, but have been applied to block reconstruction of homes after fires and other natural disasters as well.

I was first made aware of this issue by a constituent from Sacramento. Her home in the Natomas neighborhood burned down, and when she applied for a permit to rebuild it she was denied. The County informed her that FEMA floodplain regulations required her to elevate the home 20 feet above ground level because of existing deficiencies in the levee protecting her neighborhood.

Can you imagine what that would look like? Every house in the neighborhood at ground level, and one home towering 20 feet above the rest?

More importantly though, the cost would be exorbitant. And it would be imposed by the federal government on a family trying to get back on its feet after a personal tragedy.

When the home burned down, the family collected \$71,000 from their insurance company. Contractors estimated the cost to restore the home to its original condition was \$170,000—a significant burden, but one the family was willing to bear.

But when the family factored in the cost of elevating their home 20 feet, the cost skyrocketed. Contractors estimated the elevation project would cost an additional \$200,000.

Just to restore their home to its previous size and condition, the family would owe \$300,000 more than what they received from their insurance.

There is a fundamental issue of fairness at stake.

This family tragically lost their home and many of their personal belongings. But instead of helping the

family during this difficult time, the federal government is instead blocking them from rebuilding. Why? Because the federal government has failed to maintain adequate flood protection.

It just doesn't seem fair.

The Fire-Damaged Home Rebuilding Act addresses this issue by allowing local communities to grant variances to FEMA flood plain regulations without jeopardizing their participation in the program.

The legislation allows waivers to be granted only if all of the following conditions are met.

Communities must already have taken steps to repair damaged levees, such as seeking Federal authorization of a levee project, and there must be previously existing plans to obtain the requisite 100-year flood protection in the near future.

The destroyed house must be within a deep floodplain where it would be too expensive and unsightly to elevate the home.

The new home must be built within the footprint of the destroyed structure.

The homeowner cannot qualify for new insurance discounts; and the property has never been associated with a claim to the National Flood Insurance Program.

Representative DORIS MATSUI and I worked with FEMA to ensure that these limitations will only allow individual to rebuild very limited circumstances.

I strongly oppose new development in the flood plain. It is irresponsible to permit new homes or businesses in an area where you know that flooding is likely.

But rebuilding a single existing home after a tragic fire is different than building a new tract of homes. If an entire neighborhood is burned down, for instance, it should be rebuilt at a safe level. A single home is also different than building new schools or new shopping malls, which would be prohibited under the bill.

But just to be sure that local governments don't abuse this power, the number of waivers they can approve is capped at ten per year. We need to make sure that the waiver is used judiciously.

The FEMA regulations were put in place to block individual homeowners from voluntarily renovating and improving their homes. It was also designed to block homeowners from rebuilding after a flood. By doing so, the federal government limits its liability for future flood insurance claims.

I agree with the goals of those FEMA regulations. But fire-damaged homes clearly do not fit in either category. So we need to adjust the law to eliminate an unfortunate and unintended consequence of an otherwise good policy.

City and County governments must be empowered to make case by case judgments about whether it makes sense to elevate damaged structures by 10, 15, or 20 feet when the rest of the neighborhood remains at ground level.

That is exactly what the Fire-Damaged Home Reconstruction Act does. It provides limited authority to local governments, which will allow them to do what makes sense for their communities.

This is a commonsense piece of legislation, and I hope my colleagues will work to quickly adopt the bill.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS DURING ADJOURNMENT

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 92—AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURES BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. LEAHY submitted the following resolution; from the Committee on the Judiciary; which was placed on the calendar:

S. RES. 92

*Resolved,*

#### SECTION 1. GENERAL AUTHORITY.

In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on the Judiciary (in this resolution referred to as the "committee") is authorized from March 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013; October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014; and October 1, 2014 through February 28, 2015, in its discretion to—

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, to use on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

#### SEC. 2. EXPENSE LIMITATIONS.

(a) EXPENSES FOR THE PERIOD MARCH 1, 2013 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2013.—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013 under this resolution shall not exceed \$5,882,131, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$200,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 72a(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$20,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(b) EXPENSES FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 2013 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2014.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014 under this resolution shall not exceed \$10,083,653, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$200,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 72a(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$20,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) EXPENSES FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 2014 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2015.—The ex-

penses of the committee for the period October 1, 2014 through February 28, 2015 under this resolution shall not exceed \$4,201,522, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$200,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 72a(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$20,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

#### SEC. 3. REPORTING LEGISLATION.

The committee shall report its findings, together with such recommendations for legislation as it deems advisable, to the Senate at the earliest practicable date, but not later than February 28, 2015.

#### SEC. 4. EXPENSES AND AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS.

(a) EXPENSES OF THE COMMITTEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), expenses of the committee under this resolution shall be paid from the contingent fund of the Senate upon vouchers approved by the chairman of the committee.

(2) VOUCHERS NOT REQUIRED.—Vouchers shall not be required for—

(A) the disbursement of salaries of employees paid at an annual rate;

(B) the payment of telecommunications provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper;

(C) the payment of stationery supplies purchased through the Keeper of the Stationery;

(D) payments to the Postmaster of the Senate;

(E) the payment of metered charges on copying equipment provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper;

(F) the payment of Senate Recording and Photographic Services; or

(G) the payment of franked and mass mail costs by the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper, United States Senate.

(b) AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS.—There are authorized such sums as may be necessary for agency contributions related to the compensation of employees of the committee from March 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013; October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014; and October 1, 2014 through February 28, 2015, to be paid from the appropriations account for "Expenses of Inquiries and Investigations" of the Senate.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 93—DESIGNATING APRIL 4, 2013, AS "NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JUNIOR AUXILIARIES DAY"

Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. PRYOR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

Whereas the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries and the members of the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries provide valuable service and leadership opportunities for women who wish to take an active role in their communities;

Whereas the mission of the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries is to encourage member chapters to render charitable services that—

(1) are beneficial to the general public; and

(2) place a particular emphasis on providing for the needs of children; and

Whereas since the founding of the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries in 1941, the