

rate on the income of corporations to 20 percent; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 152. A bill to require the Secretary of the Air Force to retain the current leadership rank, aircraft, and core functions of the 354th Fighter Wing and the 18th Aggressor Squadron at Eielson Air Force Base and to require reports on proposed activities at such installation; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BEGICH (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BENNET, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. REED, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. COONS):

S. 153. A bill to amend section 520J of the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants for mental health first aid training programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. COBURN (for himself, Mr. THUNE, Mr. PAUL, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. RISCH, Mr. WICKER, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 154. A bill to amend title I of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to ensure that the coverage offered under multi-State qualified health plans offered in Exchanges is consistent with the Federal abortion funding ban; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. NELSON (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. WARREN, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. HARKIN):

S. Res. 12. A resolution recognizing the third anniversary of the tragic earthquake in Haiti on January 12, 2010, honoring those who lost their lives in that earthquake, and expressing continued solidarity with the people of Haiti; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. WARNER, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. Res. 13. A resolution congratulating the members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. for 100 years of service to communities throughout the United States and the world, and commending Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. for its promotion of sisterhood, scholarship, and service; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. Res. 14. A resolution raising awareness and encouraging prevention of stalking by designating January 2013 as "National Stalking Awareness Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. Res. 15. A resolution to improve procedures for the consideration of legislation and nominations in the Senate; submitted and read.

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

S. Res. 16. A resolution amending the Standing Rules of the Senate; submitted and read.

By Mr. REID:

S. Res. 17. A resolution to constitute the majority party's membership on certain

committees for the One Hundred Thirteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. Res. 18. A resolution making minority party appointments for the 113th Congress; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 4

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4, a bill to create jobs and strengthen our economy by rebuilding our Nation's infrastructure.

S. 6

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 6, a bill to reauthorize the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011, to provide assistance to small businesses owned by veterans, to improve enforcement of employment and reemployment rights of members of the uniformed services, and for other purposes.

S. 22

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 22, a bill to establish background check procedures for gun shows.

S. 29

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 29, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions.

S. 31

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 31, a bill to make the moratorium on Internet access taxes and multiple and discriminatory taxes on electronic commerce permanent.

S. 32

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 32, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking minors across State lines in circumvention of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions.

S. 33

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) 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. 40

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) were added as cosponsors of S. 40, a bill to restore Americans' individual liberty by strik-

ing the Federal mandate to purchase insurance.

S. 43

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 43, a bill to require that any debt limit increase be balanced by equal spending cuts of the next decade.

S. 46

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 46, a bill to protect Social Security benefits and military pay and require that the United States Government prioritize all obligations on the debt held by the public in the event that the debt limit is reached.

S. 47

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS), the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 47, a bill to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994.

S. 66

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 66, a bill to establish a pilot program to evaluate the cost-effectiveness and project delivery efficiency of non-Federal sponsors as the lead project delivery team for authorized civil works flood control and navigation construction projects of the Corps of Engineers.

S. 84

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 84, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

S. 116

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 116, a bill to revise and extend provisions under the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act.

S. 117

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 117, a bill to amend part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate covered part D drug prices on behalf of Medicare beneficiaries.

S. 122

At the request of Mr. CHAMBLISS, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr.

ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 122, a bill to promote freedom, fairness, and economic opportunity by repealing the income tax and other taxes, abolishing the Internal Revenue Service, and enacting a national sales tax to be administered primarily by the States.

S. RES. 4

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. Blumenthal) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 4, a resolution to limit certain uses of the filibuster in the Senate to improve the legislative process.

S. RES. 6

At the request of Mr. Merkley, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. Udall) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. Schatz) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 6, a resolution to modify extended debate in the Senate to improve the legislative process.

S. RES. 8

At the request of Mr. Roberts, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. Chambliss), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. Enzi) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. Isakson) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 8, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that Congress holds the sole authority to borrow money on the credit of the United States and shall not cede this power to the President.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. Begich, and Mr. Tester):

S. 131. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the reproductive assistance provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to severely wounded, ill, or injured veterans and their spouses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, today I introduce the Women Veterans and Other Health Care Improvement Act of 2013. I am incredibly proud of the women and men who have served or are serving our Nation in uniform, and I am grateful for the sacrifices they make on our behalf. That is why we must do everything in our power to meet the needs of our veterans and servicemembers. As those needs change, we must ensure the care available keeps pace.

That is why I introduced legislation, which was signed into law as part of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010, which helped to transform the way that the Department of Veterans Affairs addresses the needs of women veterans. Among other things, that law required the VA to provide neonatal care, train mental health professionals to provide mental health services for sexual trauma, and develop a child care pilot program. VA has an obligation to provide veterans with quality care and it is our

responsibility to make sure that VA does so. The legislation I am introducing today builds upon that effort to make additional improvements to VA's services for women veterans and veterans with families.

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have been characterized by increasing use of improvised explosive devices that leave servicemembers, both male and female, at increased risk for blast injuries including spinal cord injury and trauma to the reproductive and urinary systems. Defense Department data show that between 2003 and 2012 nearly 2,000 women and men suffered these types of injuries while serving in Iraq or Afghanistan.

These devastating and life-changing wounds can destroy the vision these men and women, and their spouses, had for the future. Having a family is one of the cornerstones of life that so many people look forward to and see as a fundamental part of their lives. To have dreams shattered because you were brave enough to put yourself in harm's way for your country is something we can never fully repay. But we must do everything we can.

As our warriors return from the battlefield, the VA system must be equipped to help injured veterans step back into their lives as parents, spouses, and citizens. These veterans have served honorably and have made the ultimate sacrifice for our great Nation. They deserve the opportunity to pursue their goals and dreams, whether that includes pursuing higher education, finding gainful employment, purchasing their first house, or starting their own family. VA has many programs that help veterans pursue the educational, career, or homeownership dreams and goals that they deferred in service to this country, but it falls short when it comes to helping severely wounded veterans who want to start a family. These veterans often need far more advanced services in order to conceive a child.

The Department of Defense and the Tricare program are already able to provide advanced fertility treatments, including assisted reproductive technology, to servicemembers with complex injuries. However, not all injured servicemembers are prepared to have a child at the time they are eligible for that coverage, and some are no longer eligible for Tricare by the time they are ready.

VA's fertility counseling and treatment options are limited and do not meet the complex needs of severely injured veterans. I have heard from seriously wounded veterans whose injuries have made it impossible for them to conceive children naturally. While the details of these stories vary, the common thread that runs through them all is that these veterans were unable to obtain the type of assistance they need. Some have spent tens of thousands of dollars on advanced reproductive treatments in the private sector to get what they need to start a family.

Others have watched their marriage collapse because the stress of infertility, in combination with the stresses of readjusting to life after severe injury, drove their relationship to a breaking point. Any servicemember who sustains this type of serious injury deserves much better. It is our responsibility to give VA the tools it needs to serve them, and the Women Veterans and Other Health Care Improvement Act is a start at doing that.

This legislation also requires VA to build upon existing research framework to gain a better understanding of the long-term reproductive health care needs of veterans, from those who experience severe reproductive and urinary tract trauma to those who experience gender-specific infections in the battlefield. An Army task force charged with looking at the needs of female servicemembers reported that women in the battlefield experience higher rates of urinary tract infections and other women's health difficulties.

After a decade at war, many women servicemembers are still at increased risk for women's health problems due to deployment conditions and a lack of predeployment women's health information, compounded by privacy and safety concerns. Little is known about the impact that these issues and injuries have on the long-term health care needs of veterans. Additional research will provide critical information to help VA improve services for veterans.

Caring for children is another frequent problem veterans encounter when trying to get health care. To address this, my legislation provides permanent authority for VA to provide child care to veterans going to medical centers or Vet Centers for health care. A pilot program examining these services is nearing completion and the results have been overwhelmingly positive. Those pilots have been very popular with veterans and VA employees, and have been far less expensive than originally estimated.

This legislation is also fully paid for. VA would be empowered to ask contractors and large corporations to pay a relatively small fee in order to provide the care needed by some of our most seriously wounded veterans. This would not hurt small businesses or veteran owned small businesses, because the Secretary would be given the authority to exempt those small businesses to ensure their ability to compete is not jeopardized.

Finally, I would point out that last Congress, in fact just a little more than a month ago, these provisions were unanimously approved by the Senate. I think the other Members of this body realized then that we must meet the changing needs of all our servicemembers and veterans, and that regardless of gender we must fulfill our obligation to do everything we can to make whole those who have been injured in service to this country.