HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 462, a bill to enhance the strategic partnership between the United States and Israel.

S. 502

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 502, a bill to assist States in providing voluntary high-quality universal prekindergarten programs and programs to support infants and toddlers.

S. 534

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 534, a bill to reform the National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers, and for other purposes.

S. 541

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 541, a bill to prevent human health threats posed by the consumption of equines raised in the United States.

S. 577

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 577, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the distribution of additional residency positions, and for other purposes.

S. 579

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 579, a bill to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to obtain observer status for Taiwan at the triennial International Civil Aviation Organization Assembly, and for other purposes.

S. 623

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 623, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure the continued access of Medicare beneficiaries to diagnostic imaging services.

S. 635

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 635, a bill to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception to the annual written privacy notice requirement.

S. 675

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 675, a bill to prohibit contracting with the enemy.

S. 728

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 728, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion from gross income for employer-provided health coverage for employees' spouses and dependent children to coverage provided to other eligible designated beneficiaries of employees.

S. 749

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 749, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the 15-year recovery period for qualified leasehold improvement property, qualified restaurant property, and qualified retail improvement property.

S. 751

At the request of Mr. COATS, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 751, a bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to authorize producers on a farm to produce fruits and vegetables for processing on the base acres of the farm.

S. 783

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 783, a bill to amend the Helium Act to improve helium stewardship, and for other purposes.

S. 789

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 789, a bill to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Special Service Force, in recognition of its superior service during World War II.

S. 790

At the request of Mrs. MCCASKILL, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 790, a bill to require the United States International Trade Commission to recommend temporary duty suspensions and reductions to Congress, and for other purposes.

S. 794

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 794, a bill to prevent an increase in flight delays and cancellations, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) were added as cosponsors of S. 794, supra.

S. 798

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 798, a bill to address equity capital requirements for financial institutions, bank holding companies, subsidiaries, and affiliates, and for other purposes.

S. 805

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 805, a bill to improve compliance with mine and occupational safety and health laws, and empower workers to raise safety concerns, prevent future mine and other workplace tragedies, and establish rights of families of victims of workplace accidents, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 15

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 15, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the Chained Consumer Price Index should not be used to calculate cost-of-living adjustments for Social Security or veterans benefits, or to increase the tax burden on low- and middle-income taxpayers.

AMENDMENT NO. 746

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 746 intended to be proposed to S. 743, a bill to restore States' sovereign rights to enforce State and local sales and use tax laws, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 747

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 747 intended to be proposed to S. 743, a bill to restore States' sovereign rights to enforce State and local sales and use tax laws, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 749

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 749 intended to be proposed to S. 743, a bill to restore States' sovereign rights to enforce State and local sales and use tax laws, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 757

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 757 intended to be proposed to S. 743, a bill to restore States' sovereign rights to enforce State and local sales and use tax laws, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 760

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 760 intended to be proposed to S. 743, a bill to restore States' sovereign rights to enforce State and local sales and use tax laws, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DONNELLY:

S. 810. A bill to require a pilot program on an online computerized assessment to enhance detection of behaviors

indicating a risk of suicide and other mental health conditions in members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, I wish to take time to speak about an important issue that needs immediate attention, suicide among our servicemembers and veterans. Last year, we lost more servicemen and women to suicide than we lost in combat in Afghanistan.

In 2012, approximately 349 members of the U.S. military, including Active-Duty, Guard, and Reserve, committed suicide—more than the total number of servicemembers who died in combat operations. This number does not even include the more than 6,000 veterans we lost last year to suicide. This is unacceptable. This has to end.

Today, I am introducing my first bill as a Senator, the Jacob Sexton Military Suicide Prevention Act of 2013. We are doing this to address this pervasive issue. This bill seeks to better identify servicemembers struggling with mental health issues and to ensure they receive the assistance they need before resorting to this tragic act.

I named this bill after a member of the Indiana National Guard, Jacob Sexton, a native of farmland Indiana, who tragically took his life in 2009 while home on a 15-day leave from Afghanistan. His death came as a shock to his family and his friends as well as his fellow Guard members.

This is a picture of Jacob while on duty. He is an American hero. He did everything he could to serve his country and to help people from another country, to help people around the world live a better life.

A couple months ago, I heard from Jacob's dad Jeff, and I have since learned about his childhood in Indiana, Jacob's service to our Nation, and the big heart he always showed through his dedication to bringing winter coats to all the kids he met in Afghanistan during his deployment.

Jeff, along with his wife and Jacob's mom Barbara, has since become an advocate for suicide prevention. They want to make sure what happened to Jacob doesn't happen to anyone else. They helped inspire this bill, and I thank them for their dedication to preventing these tragedies for other parents and loved ones of men and women in uniform.

This is a collage made in honor of Jacob by his mom Barbara, and it is a reflection of who he was, the things he did, the people he served, and the wonderful spirit of ''can do'' and ''how can I help my country'' that permeated who he was. My hope is we can help men and women similar to Jacob who are struggling with mental health issues to get the help they need before they resort to taking their own life.

The facts on military suicides are stark. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Centers for Disease Control, at least 30,000 veterans and military members have committed suicide since the Department of Defense began closely tracking these numbers in 2009. It is important to note suicide is not necessarily linked to deployments abroad. Since the Defense Department Suicide Prevention Office began keeping detailed records in 2008, less than half of suicide victims had deployed and few were involved in combat.

Most of DOD's existing suicide prevention programs work within the context of deployments. As we draw down in Afghanistan and away from the strain of multiple deployments, it is time to find a more integrated solution that does not rely on the deployment cycle to the servicemember's mental health. Instead, research has shown that other risk factors, such as relationship issues, legal or financial issues or substance abuse play a larger role in suicides than a servicemember's deployment history.

We have heard this firsthand from crisis intervention officers right in my home State of Indiana. Further, many of these suicide victims did not communicate their intent to take their own life nor did they have known behavioral health issues. Given the facts before us, what does the current mental health system look like? The current mental health systems for both Active and Retired military rely on a servicemember's or a veteran's willingness to self-report suicidal thoughts and to seek out assistance. The backup to this system is if family members, peers or coworkers identify changes in behavior and then recommend their loved one or friend seek assistance.

How do we improve this system? The Jacob Sexton Military Suicide Prevention Act of 2013 would establish a pilot program in each of the military services and also the Reserve components to integrate annual mental health assessments into a servicemember's periodic health assessment—or PHA. That is an annual review designed to track whether a servicemember is fit to serve. The pilot program would expand that review to include a more detailed mental health review and to identify those risk factors for mental illness so servicemembers can receive preventive care and help.

By building on the system that monitors the member from induction to transition into veteran status, an expanded review, including a mental health assessment, would create a holistic picture of a servicemember's readiness to serve. The servicemember can carry this record with them as they leave the service, and it could help inform any future claims for veterans' benefits.

The Jacob Sexton Military Suicide Prevention Act would also integrate a first-line supervisor's input. The first-line supervisor plays an important role in a servicemember's life and may be aware of relationships or financial problems but not be able to address them unless the servicemember speaks up. Sometimes these problems affect performance. The supervisor's input would help identify potential triggers for stress and suicidal tendencies or problems in work performance.

The results of the whole questionnaire would be reviewed by mental health specialists. If problems or risk factors are identified, servicemembers would be referred to behavioral health specialists for further evaluation and medical care.

I included in this legislation—and this is critical—privacy protections to ensure information collected through the survey is used only for medical purposes. It cannot be used for promotion, retention or disciplinary purposes. I strongly believe a servicemember should not bear any consequence for reporting on their mental health or trying to seek out mental health assistance.

Finally, as I think we should expect of all government programs and proposals, my bill would require an assessment as to whether it is actually working. To determine the effectiveness of the program and the ways to move forward, this bill would require a report from the Department of Defense to Congress on the impact of the program in identifying behavioral health concerns and interventions in suicides.

We have lost far too many men and women such as Jacob. Let us come together in a bipartisan fashion to honor the memories of Jacob and all those Americans we have lost by working to improve our ability to spot warning signs before it is too late. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation on behalf of those who sacrifice so much for our Nation every day.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. STABENOW, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 820. A bill to provide for a uniform national standard for the housing and treatment of egg-laying hens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Egg Products Inspection Act Amendments of 2013 with Agriculture Committee Chairwoman DEBBIE STABENOW and Senator COLLINS as original cosponsors.

This legislation establishes a single, national standard for the humane treatment of egg-laying hens.

The bill text represents a historic compromise between the United Egg Producers, who represent about 90 percent of the eggs produced in the United States, and the Humane Society, the Nation's largest animal-welfare organization.

The bill is supported by 14 agriculture and egg producer groups, the four major veterinary groups involved in avian medicine, five consumer organizations, and hundreds more groups nationwide.

Nearly 10 years ago, voters started taking an interest in insuring that

their eggs were being produced humanely. This resulted in State level legislation and a number of initiatives, including Proposition 2 in California, to reform the agriculture industry.

Many of these efforts were successful. State laws governing egg production were enacted in 6 states, and a patchwork of differing state-based regulation has emerged.

Compounding the problem is the lack of a standard for egg labeling. This makes it difficult for consumers to know exactly what they are purchasing and understand what the labels mean.

This situation has two principal effects.

First, the uncertainty stifles economic growth in this important industry. Egg producers now face difficult choices when it comes to investing in their businesses. Why expand facilities and invest in new technologies when rules may change and invalidate your investment? Why expand into new markets when those new markets may be closed to you in just a few short years?

Second, consumers are limited in their ability to make choices. At the supermarket, consumers are bombarded with different labels, ''humanely-raised,'' ''cage-free,'' and ''all-natural.'' But the definitions of these labels vary, and even when they are consistent the terms are vague. One person's ''all-natural'' may not be another person's ''all-natural.'' One company's ''cage-free'' may not be another company's ''cage-free.''

This legislation addresses both problems.

It increases the size of hen cages over the next 18 years and adds enrichments like perches and nests so chickens can engage in natural ''chicken'' behaviors, like scratching and nesting.

It outlaws the practice of depriving hens of food and water, a once-common practice to increase egg production.

It sets minimum air quality standards for hen houses, protecting workers and birds.

It establishes clear requirements for egg labeling so consumers know whether the eggs they buy come from hens that are caged, cage-free, free-range, or housed in enriched cages.

Farmers with 3,000 birds or fewer are exempted from the provisions of this legislation.

Also, organic, cage-free and free-range egg producers will be unaffected by the housing provisions of the bill. However, they may see increased sales, as consumers are able to more clearly tell what is available on store shelves as a result of the labeling provisions.

The legislation offers significant phase-in time to allow producers to make the necessary changes in the regular course of replacing their equipment. It is my understanding that hen cages generally last 10 to 15 years. So the 18-year phase-in included in the bill should offer sufficient time to implement changes to enriched cages.

This legislation is important in part because it represents a compromise between old adversaries.

In this agreement, egg producers and the Humane Society have joined forces to meet consumer demand, address concerns of the animal welfare community and resolve a decade-old struggle. The result is a bill widely supported by the industry, animal welfare advocates and consumers.

It is an example of commonsense cooperation in what has historically been a contentious space.

This bill also reflects changes already being made because of consumer demand. McDonalds, Burger King, Costco, Safeway and other companies are already phasing in new humane handling requirements for the production of the food that they sell.

Further, a survey by an independent research company, the Bantam Group, found that consumers support the industry transitioning to larger cages with enrichments by a ratio of 12 to 1.

Importantly, the Congressional Budget Office scores this legislation as having no cost, and a study by Agralytica, a consulting firm, found that this legislation would not have a substantial price effect on consumers. That means we can achieve these goals at little to no cost to taxpayers and consumers.

This legislation has been endorsed by leading scientists in the egg industry, the American Veterinary Medical Association and the two leading avian veterinary groups. Studies show these new cages can result in lower mortality and higher productivity for hens, making them more efficient for egg producers.

As many of my colleagues know, the legislation was the subject of a June 2012 Senate Agriculture Committee hearing. The hearing was attended by egg farmers from around the country—Georgia, Michigan, California, Mississippi, Iowa, Indiana, Minnesota, Ohio—all united in their support for uniform regulations.

The Secretary of Agriculture himself suggested that the legislation is a good example of ''thinking differently,'' and possibly even a way to get more Americans to support the farm bill and other rural issues. As he pointed out, egg producers deserve to know the rules of the road

The agreement in this bill is just the sort of reasonable thinking and compromise that we need more of in Washington.

I urge you to join me in supporting this legislation.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 822. A bill to protect crime victims' rights, to eliminate the substantial backlog of DNA samples collected from crime scenes and convicted offenders, to improve and expand the DNA testing capacity of Federal, State, and local crime laboratories, to increase research and development of new DNA testing technologies, to develop new training programs regarding the collection and use of DNA evidence, to provide post conviction testing of DNA evidence to exonerate the innocent, to improve the performance of counsel in State capital cases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today, I am proud to introduce the Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2013. The Justice for All Act, originally enacted in 2004, was an unprecedented bipartisan piece of criminal justice legislation. It was the most significant step Congress had taken in many years to improve the quality of justice in this country. I am pleased to be joined this year by Senator CORNYN as an original cosponsor of this legislation. I know that Senator CORNYN shares my commitment to ensuring public confidence in the integrity of the American justice system.

It is fitting that we introduce this bill now, during Crime Victims' Rights week, as we honor the victims of crime across the country, and reaffirm our commitment to seeking justice on their behalf. That commitment feels particularly important now, in light of this year's horrific events in Boston and Newtown. Nothing can eliminate the pain inflicted by those tragedies, but we can work together to ensure that the needs of those families are met so that they can find healing and begin to rebuild their lives.

This legislation takes important steps to strengthen rights for victims of crime. For example, it establishes an affirmative right to be informed of their rights under the Crime Victims' Rights Act and other key laws, and it takes several steps to make it easier for crime victims to assert those rights in court.

In addition to being Crime Victims' Rights Week, today is National DNA Day and it is appropriate to acknowledge the power DNA testing has had in improving our criminal justice system. One example of that impact has been in the testing of rape kits. This legislation reauthorizes the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Reduction Act, which has provided significant funding to reduce the backlog of untested rape kits so that victims need not live in fear while kits languish in storage. That program is named after Debbie Smith who waited years after being attacked before her rape kit was tested and the perpetrator was caught. She and her husband Rob have worked tirelessly to ensure that others will not experience the ordeal she went through. I thank Debbie and Rob for their continuing help on this extremely important cause.

The legislation also includes significant measures to improve the administration of justice in our courts, including the use of post-conviction DNA testing. The bill is built on the work I began in 2000, when I introduced the Innocence Protection Act, which sought to ensure that defendants in the most serious cases receive competent representation and, where appropriate, access to post-conviction DNA testing

necessary to prove their innocence in those cases where the system got it grievously wrong.

The Innocence Protection Act became a key component of the Justice for All Act. The act also included vital provisions to ensure that crime victims would have the rights and protections they need and deserve and that States and communities would take major steps to reduce the backlog of untested rape kits and ensure prompt justice for victims of sexual assault. These and other important criminal justice provisions made the Justice for All Act a groundbreaking achievement in criminal justice reform.

The programs created by the Justice for All Act have had an enormous impact, and it is crucial that we reauthorize them. Unfortunately, it is clear that simply reauthorizing the existing law is not enough. Significant problems remain, and we must work together to address them.

In the years since the Justice for All Act passed, we have seen too many cases of people found to be innocent after spending years in jail. A California man, Brian Banks, was exonerated after spending five years in prison for a rape he did not commit. He recently signed with the Atlanta Falcons and will realize his dream of playing professional football. Brian's story had a happy ending, but too many wrongly convicted people are not as lucky. It is an outrage when an innocent person is punished, and this injustice is compounded when the true perpetrator remains on the streets, able to commit more crimes. We are all less safe when the system gets it wrong.

To that end, this legislation strengthens the Kirk Bloodsworth Post Conviction DNA Testing Grant Program, one of the key programs created in the Innocence Protection Act. Kirk Bloodsworth was a young man just out of the Marines when he was arrested, convicted, and sentenced to death for a heinous crime that he did not commit. He was the first person in the United States to be exonerated from a death row crime through the use of DNA evidence.

This program provides grants to States for testing in cases like Kirk's where someone has been convicted, but where significant DNA evidence was not tested. The last administration resisted implementing the program for several years, but we worked hard to see the program put into place. Now, money has gone out to a number of States, and is having an impact. The legislation we introduce today clarifies the conditions set for this program so that participating States are required to preserve key evidence, which is crucial, but are given further guidance about how to do so in a way that is attainable and will allow more states to participate.

This legislation takes important steps to ensure that all criminal defendants, including those who cannot afford a lawyer, receive effective representation. It requires the Department of Justice to assist States in developing an effective and efficient system of indigent defense. I know as a former prosecutor, that the system only works as it should when each side is well represented by competent and well-trained counsel. Fifty years after the Supreme Court's landmark decision in Gideon v. Wainwright, it is past time to ensure that all criminal defendants have effective representation before government authority takes away their liberty.

The bill also asks States to produce comprehensive plans for their criminal justice systems, which will help to ensure that criminal justice systems operate effectively as a whole and that all parts of the system work together and receive the resources they need.

The bill reauthorizes and improves key grant programs in a variety of areas throughout the criminal justice system. Importantly, it increases authorized funding for the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant program, which is a vital program to assist forensic laboratories in performing the many forensic tests that are essential to solving crimes and prosecuting perpetrators.

In these times of tight budgets, it is important to note that this bill would make all of these improvements while responsibly reducing the total authorized funding under the Justice For All Act and that many of these changes will help States, communities, and the Federal Government save money in the long term.

I thank the many law enforcement and criminal justice organizations that have helped to pinpoint the needed improvements that this law attempts to solve and I appreciate their ongoing support in seeing it passed.

Today, we rededicate ourselves to building a criminal justice system in which the innocent remain free, the guilty are punished, and all sides have the tools, resources, and knowledge they need to advance the cause of justice. Americans need and deserve a criminal justice system which keeps us safe, ensures fairness and accuracy, and fulfills the promise of our constitution. This bill will take important steps to bring us closer to that goal.

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. 822

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 ''Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2013''.

SEC. 2. CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3771 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

''(9) The right to be informed of the rights under this section and the services described in section 503(c) of the Victims' Rights and Restitution Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 10607(c)) and provided contact information for the Office of the Victims' Rights Ombudsman of the Department of Justice.'';

(2) in subsection (d)(3), in the fifth sentence, by inserting '', unless the litigants, with the approval of the court, have stipulated to a different time period for consideration'' before the period; and

(3) in subsection (e)—

(A) by striking ''this chapter, the term'' and inserting the following: ''this chapter:

''(1) COURT OF APPEALS.—The term 'court of appeals' means—

''(A) the United States court of appeals for the judicial district in which a defendant is being prosecuted; or

''(B) for a prosecution in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.

''(2) CRIME VICTIM.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term'';

(B) by striking ''In the case'' and inserting the following:

''(B) MINORS AND CERTAIN OTHER VICTIMS.—In the case''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) DISTRICT COURT; COURT.—The terms 'district court' and 'court' include the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.''.

(b) CRIME VICTIMS FUND.—Section 1402(d)(3) of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10601(d)(3) is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(A)'' before ''Of the sums''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) Amounts made available under subparagraph (A) may not be used for any purpose that is not specified in subparagraph (A).''.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR GRANTS FOR CRIME VICTIMS.

(a) CRIME VICTIMS LEGAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS.—Section 103(b) of the Justice for All Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–405; 118 Stat. 2264) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''$2,000,000'' and all that follows through ''2009'' and inserting ''$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018'';

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''$2,000,000'' and all that follows through ''2009,'' and inserting ''$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018'';

(3) in paragraph (3), by striking ''$300,000'' and all that follows through ''2009,'' and inserting ''$500,000 for each of fiscal years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018'';

(4) in paragraph (4), by striking ''$7,000,000'' and all that follows through ''2009,'' and inserting ''$11,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018''; and

(5) in paragraph (5), by striking ''$5,000,000'' and all that follows through ''2009,'' and inserting ''$7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018''.

(b) CRIME VICTIMS NOTIFICATION GRANTS.—Section 1404E(c) of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10603e(c)) is amended by striking ''this section—'' and all that follows and inserting ''this section $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018.''.

SEC. 4. DEBBIE SMITH DNA BACKLOG GRANT PROGRAM.

Section 2(j) of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14135(j)) is amended by striking ''fiscal years 2009 through 2014'' and inserting ''fiscal years 2014 through 2018''

SEC. 5. RAPE EXAM PAYMENTS.

Section 2010(d)(2) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796gg–4(d)(2)) is amended by striking ''enactment of this Act'' and inserting ''enactment of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013''.

SEC. 6. ADDITIONAL REAUTHORIZATIONS.

(a) DNA TRAINING AND EDUCATION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT.—Section 303(b) of the Justice for All Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 14136(b)) is amended by striking ''$12,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2014'' and inserting ''$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018''.

(b) SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EXAM PROGRAM GRANTS.—Section 304(c) of the Justice for All Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 14136a(c)) is amended by striking ''$30,000,000 for each of 2014 through 2018'' and inserting ''$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018''.

(c) DNA RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—Section 305(c) of the Justice for All Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 14136b(c)) is amended by striking ''$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2009'' and inserting ''$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018''.

(d) FBI DNA PROGRAMS.—Section 307(a) of the Justice for All Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–405; 118 Stat. 2275) is amended by striking ''$42,100,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2009'' and inserting ''$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018''.

(e) DNA IDENTIFICATION OF MISSING PERSONS.—Section 308(c) of the Justice for All Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 14136d(c)) is amended by striking ''fiscal years 2005 through 2009'' and inserting ''fiscal years 2014 through 2018''.

SEC. 7. PAUL COVERDELL FORENSIC SCIENCES IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Section 1001(a)(24) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3793(a)(24)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (H), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (I), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(J) $25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018.''.

SEC. 8. IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF REPRESENTATION IN STATE CAPITAL CASES.

Section 426 of the Justice for All Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 14163e) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''$75,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2009'' and inserting ''$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018''; and

(2) in subsection (b), by inserting before the period at the end the following: '', or upon a showing of good cause, and at the discretion of the Attorney General, the State may determine a fair allocation of funds across the uses described in sections 421 and 422''.

SEC. 9. POST-CONVICTION DNA TESTING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3600 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(B)(i), by striking ''death''; and

(B) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking ''and the applicant did not—'' and all that follows through ''knowingly fail to request'' and inserting ''and the applicant did not knowingly fail to request''; and

(2) in subsection (g)(2)(B), by striking ''death''.

(b) PRESERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE.—Section 3600A(c) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (2); and

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (3), (4), and (5) as paragraphs (2), (3), and (4), respectively.

SEC. 10. INCENTIVE GRANTS TO STATES TO ENSURE CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS OF ACTUAL INNOCENCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 413 of the Justice for All Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 14136 note) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''fiscal years 2005 through 2009'' and inserting ''fiscal years 2014 through 2018''; and

(2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) for eligible entities that are a State or unit of local government, provide a certification by the chief legal officer of the State in which the eligible entity operates or the chief legal officer of the jurisdiction in which the funds will be used for the purposes of the grants, that the State or jurisdiction—

''(A) provides DNA testing of specified evidence under a State statute or a State or local rule or regulation to persons convicted after trial and under a sentence of imprisonment or death for a State felony offense, in a manner intended to ensure a reasonable process for resolving claims of actual innocence that ensures post-conviction DNA testing in at least those cases that would be covered by section 3600(a) of title 18, United States Code, had they been Federal cases, and, if the results of the testing exclude the applicant as the perpetrator of the offense, permits the applicant to apply for post-conviction relief, notwithstanding any provision of law that would otherwise bar the application as untimely; and

''(B) preserves biological evidence, as defined in section 3600A of title 18, United States Code, under a State statute or a State or local rule, regulation, or practice in a manner intended to ensure that reasonable measures are taken by the State or jurisdiction to preserve biological evidence secured in relation to the investigation or prosecution of, at a minimum, murder, non-negligent manslaughter and sexual offenses.''.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 412(b) of the Justice for All Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 14136e(b)) is amended by striking ''$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2009'' and inserting ''$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018''.

SEC. 11. ESTABLISHMENT OF BEST PRACTICES FOR EVIDENCE RETENTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title IV of the Justice for All Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–405; 118 Stat. 2278) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 414. ESTABLISHMENT OF BEST PRACTICES FOR EVIDENCE RETENTION.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National Institute of Justice, in consultation with Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies and government laboratories, shall—

''(1) establish best practices for evidence retention to focus on the preservation of biological evidence; and

''(2) assist State, local, and tribal governments in adopting and implementing the best practices established under paragraph (1).

''(b) DEADLINE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Director of the National Institute of Justice shall publish the best practices established under subsection (a)(1).

''(c) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require or obligate compliance with the best practices established under subsection (a)(1).''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Justice for All Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–405; 118 Stat. 2260) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 413 the following:

''Sec. 414. Establishment of best practices for evidence retention.''.

SEC. 12. EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Effective Administration of Criminal Justice Act of 2013''.

(b) STRATEGIC PLANNING.—Section 502 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3752) is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(a) IN GENERAL.—'' before ''To request a grant''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) A comprehensive State-wide plan detailing how grants received under this section will be used to improve the administration of the criminal justice system, which shall—

''(A) be designed in consultation with local governments, and all segments of the criminal justice system, including judges, prosecutors, law enforcement personnel, corrections personnel, and providers of indigent defense services, victim services, juvenile justice delinquency prevention programs, community corrections, and reentry services;

''(B) include a description of how the State will allocate funding within and among each of the uses described in subparagraphs (A) through (G) of section 501(a)(1);

''(C) describe the process used by the State for gathering evidence-based data and developing and using evidence-based and evidence-gathering approaches in support of funding decisions; and

''(D) be updated every 5 years, with annual progress reports that—

''(i) address changing circumstances in the State, if any;

''(ii) describe how the State plans to adjust funding within and among each of the uses described in subparagraphs (A) through (G) of section 501(a)(1);

''(iii) provide an ongoing assessment of need;

''(iv) discuss the accomplishment of goals identified in any plan previously prepared under this paragraph; and

''(v) reflect how the plan influenced funding decisions in the previous year.

''(b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

''(1) STRATEGIC PLANNING.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Attorney General shall begin to provide technical assistance to States and local governments requesting support to develop and implement the strategic plan required under subsection (a)(6).

''(2) PROTECTION OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Attorney General shall begin to provide technical assistance to States and local governments, including any agent thereof with responsibility for administration of justice, requesting support to meet the obligations established by the Sixth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall include—

''(A) public dissemination of practices, structures, or models for the administration of justice consistent with the requirements of the Sixth Amendment; and

''(B) assistance with adopting and implementing a system for the administration of justice consistent with the requirements of the Sixth Amendment.

''(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018 to carry out this subsection.''.

(c) APPLICABILITY.—The requirement to submit a strategic plan under section 501(a)(6) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as added by subsection (b), shall apply to any application submitted under such section 501 for a grant for any fiscal year beginning after the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 13. OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

All grants awarded by the Department of Justice that are authorized under this Act shall be subject to the following:

(1) AUDIT REQUIREMENT.—Beginning in fiscal year 2014, and each fiscal year thereafter,

the Inspector General of the Department of Justice shall conduct audits of recipients of grants under this Act to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse of funds by grantees. The Inspector General shall determine the appropriate number of grantees to be audited each year.

(2) MANDATORY EXCLUSION.—A recipient of grant funds under this Act that is found to have an unresolved audit finding shall not be eligible to receive grant funds under this Act during the 2 fiscal years beginning after the 12-month period described in paragraph (5).

(3) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this Act, the Attorney General shall give priority to eligible entities that, during the 3 fiscal years before submitting an application for a grant under this Act, did not have an unresolved audit finding showing a violation in the terms or conditions of a Department of Justice grant program.

(4) REIMBURSEMENT.—If an entity is awarded grant funds under this Act during the 2-fiscal-year period in which the entity is barred from receiving grants under paragraph (2), the Attorney General shall—

(A) deposit an amount equal to the grant funds that were improperly awarded to the grantee into the General Fund of the Treasury; and

(B) seek to recoup the costs of the repayment to the fund from the grant recipient that was erroneously awarded grant funds.

(5) DEFINED TERM.—In this section, the term ''unresolved audit finding'' means an audit report finding in the final audit report of the Inspector General of the Department of Justice that the grantee has utilized grant funds for an unauthorized expenditure or otherwise unallowable cost that is not closed or resolved within a 12-month period beginning on the date when the final audit report is issued.

(6) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section and the grant programs described in this Act, the term ''nonprofit organization'' means an organization that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code.

(B) PROHIBITION.—The Attorney General shall not award a grant under any grant program described in this Act to a nonprofit organization that holds money in offshore accounts for the purpose of avoiding paying the tax described in section 511(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(C) DISCLOSURE.—Each nonprofit organization that is awarded a grant under a grant program described in this Act and uses the procedures prescribed in regulations to create a rebuttable presumption of reasonableness for the compensation of its officers, directors, trustees and key employees, shall disclose to the Attorney General, in the application for the grant, the process for determining such compensation, including the independent persons involved in reviewing and approving such compensation, the comparability data used, and contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision. Upon request, the Attorney General shall make the information disclosed under this subsection available for public inspection.

(7) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Unless otherwise explicitly provided in authorizing legislation, not more than 7.5 percent of the amounts authorized to be appropriated under this Act may be used by the Attorney General for salaries and administrative expenses of the Department of Justice.

(8) CONFERENCE EXPENDITURES.—

(A) LIMITATION.—No amounts authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Justice under this Act may be used by the Attorney General or by any individual or organization awarded discretionary funds through a cooperative agreement under this Act, to host or support any expenditure for conferences that uses more than $20,000 in Department funds, unless the Deputy Attorney General or the appropriate Assistant Attorney General, Director, or principal deputy as the Deputy Attorney General may designate, provides prior written authorization that the funds may be expended to host a conference.

(B) WRITTEN APPROVAL.—Written approval under subparagraph (A) shall include a written estimate of all costs associated with the conference, including the cost of all food and beverages, audio/visual equipment, honoraria for speakers, and any entertainment.

(C) REPORT.—The Deputy Attorney General shall submit an annual report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives on all conference expenditures approved by operation of this paragraph.

(9) PROHIBITION ON LOBBYING ACTIVITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Amounts authorized to be appropriated under this Act may not be utilized by any grant recipient to—

(i) lobby any representative of the Department of Justice regarding the award of grant funding; or

(ii) lobby any representative of a Federal, state, local, or tribal government regarding the award of grant funding.

(B) PENALTY.—If the Attorney General determines that any recipient of a grant under this Act has violated subparagraph (A), the Attorney General shall—

(i) require the grant recipient to repay the grant in full; and

(ii) prohibit the grant recipient from receiving another grant under this Act for not less than 5 years.

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

S. 825. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the provision of services for homeless veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I rise to introduce the Homeless Veterans Prevention Act of 2013. I would like to thank Ranking Member BURR for joining me to introduce this bill. At a time when too many veterans are sleeping in the streets, in cars, and on couches, the Department of Veterans Affairs has taken on an aggressive initiative to end homelessness among veterans by 2015.

This high level commitment has led to a 17 percent decrease in the homeless veteran population between 2009 and 2012. These declining numbers are a reflection of the combined efforts of VA and its Federal, State, Local, Tribal, and community partners as they work to eliminate veteran homelessness by 2015. However on one night in January 2012, an estimated 62,000 veterans were still without a place to call home. We must continue to work toward removing any remaining barriers to housing for veterans.

The legislation we are introducing today would reaffirm this commitment by improving upon VA's programs to prevent and end homelessness among veterans. VA's transitional housing programs for homeless veterans must modernize to ensure that they are meeting the needs of the homeless veterans they are serving. With increasing numbers of women joining the military and eventually becoming veterans, VA is facing a growing homeless women veteran population. Many of these women are single mothers or have experienced military sexual trauma, making their housing needs even more complex.

The Government Accountability Office and VA's Office of the Inspector General both found that homeless women veterans were not able to safely access services through VA's transitional housing programs. The Homeless Veterans Prevention Act of 2013 would remove these barriers by requiring grantees to ensure that facilities can safely serve the needs of the populations that will be living there. It also would allow VA to reimburse grantees for housing the children of homeless veterans, keeping families together and encouraging parents to come forth and be housed without having to worry about splitting their families up.

As VA focuses on resolving homelessness, instead of just managing it, housing stability is increasingly a focus. This bill also modifies the transitional housing program to allow VA to incentivize grantees to avoid the challenges that veterans completing time-limited transitional housing programs can face as they search for permanent housing. More specifically, this bill allows VA to focus on housing stability by allowing certain transitional housing grantees to turn a portion of their transitional housing units into permanent housing units as veterans are stabilized and linked to support services.

Access to stable and safe housing is a priority, but it is also critical to find ways to prevent homelessness among veterans who are at-risk of becoming homeless. This bill would also increase access to legal services and dental care for our veterans, two things that homeless veterans themselves have identified as unmet needs. Access to these services would greatly increase their chances of finding gainful employment, avoid foreclosure or eviction, obtain identification, and deal with legal issues that have resulted from the criminalization of homelessness, among other things.

Veterans have a number of services and resources available to meet their needs. At its very simplest, homelessness among veterans is preventable when all of these programs work together to lift a veteran up. Conversely, homelessness occurs when a veteran slips through the cracks. We cannot sit by idly and allow another veteran to slip through the cracks. We must reach out and let them know when, where and how to get the help that they need and that they have earned.

This is not a full summary of all the provisions within this legislation. However, I hope that I have provided an appropriate overview of the major benefits this legislation would provide.

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. 825

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 ''Homeless Veterans Prevention Act of 2013''.

SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS TO GRANT PROGRAM FOR COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE PROGRAMS FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.

(a) MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS FOR PROGRAMS THAT ASSIST HOMELESS VETERANS.—Subsection (a) of section 2011 of title 38, United States Code, is amended, in the matter before paragraph (1)—

(1) by striking ''or modifying'' and inserting '', modifying, or maintaining''; and

(2) by inserting ''privately, safely, and securely,'' before ''the following''.

(b) REQUIREMENT THAT RECIPIENTS OF GRANTS MEET PHYSICAL PRIVACY, SAFETY, AND SECURITY NEEDS OF HOMELESS VETERANS.—Subsection (f) of such section is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(6) To meet the physical privacy, safety, and security needs of homeless veterans receiving services through the project.''.

SEC. 3. INCREASED PER DIEM PAYMENTS FOR TRANSITIONAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE THAT BECOMES PERMANENT HOUSING FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.

Section 2012(a)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) through (D) as subparagraphs (C) through (E), respectively;

(2) in subparagraph (C), as redesignated, by striking ''in subparagraph (D)'' and inserting ''in subparagraph (E)'';

(3) in subparagraph (D), as redesignated, by striking ''under subparagraph (B)'' and inserting ''under subparagraph (C)'';

(4) in subparagraph (E), as redesignated, by striking ''in subparagraphs (B) and (C)'' and inserting ''in subparagraphs (C) and (D)''; and

(5) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by striking ''The rate'' and inserting ''Except as otherwise provided in subparagraph (B), the rate''; and

(B) by striking ''under subparagraph (B)'' and all that follows through the end and inserting the following: ''under subparagraph (C).

''(B)(i) Except as provided in clause (ii), in no case may the rate determined under this paragraph exceed the rate authorized for State homes for domiciliary care under subsection (a)(1)(A) of section 1741 of this title, as the Secretary may increase from time to time under subsection (c) of that section.

''(ii) In the case of services furnished to a homeless veteran who is placed in housing that will become permanent housing for the veteran upon termination of the furnishing of such services to such veteran, the maximum rate of per diem authorized under this section is 150 percent of the rate described in clause (i).''.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF PER DIEM PAYMENTS FOR FURNISHING CARE TO DEPENDENTS OF CERTAIN HOMELESS VETERANS.

Subsection (a) of section 2012 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(4) Services for which a recipient of a grant under section 2011 of this title (or an entity described in paragraph (1)) may receive per diem payments under this subsection may include furnishing care for a dependent of a homeless veteran who is under the care of such homeless veteran while such homeless veteran receives services from the grant recipient (or entity).''.

SEC. 5. REQUIREMENT FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO ASSESS COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE PROGRAMS FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall assess and measure the capacity of programs for which entities receive grants under section 2011 of title 38, United States Code, or per diem payments under section 2012 or 2061 of such title.

(b) ASSESSMENT AT NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS.—In assessing and measuring under subsection (a), the Secretary shall develop and use tools to examine the capacity of programs described in such subsection at both the national and local level in order to assess the following:

(1) Whether sufficient capacity exists to meet the needs of homeless veterans in each geographic area.

(2) Whether existing capacity meets the needs of the subpopulations of homeless veterans located in each geographic area.

(3) The amount of capacity that recipients of grants under sections 2011 and 2061 and per diem payments under section 2012 of such title have to provide services for which the recipients are eligible to receive per diem under section 2012(a)(2)(B)(ii) of title 38, United States Code, as added by section 3(5)(B).

(c) USE OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall use the information collected under this section as follows:

(1) To set specific goals to ensure that programs described in subsection (a) are effectively serving the needs of homeless veterans.

(2) To assess whether programs described in subsection (a) are meeting goals set under paragraph (1).

(3) To inform funding allocations for programs described in subsection (a).

(4) To improve the referral of homeless veterans to programs described in subsection (a).

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the assessment required by subsection (b) is completed, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on such assessment and such recommendations for legislative and administrative action as the Secretary may have to improve the programs and per diem payments described in subsection (a).

SEC. 6. REPEAL OF REQUIREMENT FOR ANNUAL REPORTS ON ASSISTANCE TO HOMELESS VETERANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2065 of title 38, United States Code, is hereby repealed.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 20 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 2065.

SEC. 7. REPEAL OF SUNSET ON AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT PROGRAM OF REFERRAL AND COUNSELING SERVICES FOR VETERANS AT RISK FOR HOMELESSNESS WHO ARE TRANSITIONING FROM CERTAIN INSTITUTIONS.

Section 2023 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (d); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (d).

SEC. 8. PARTNERSHIPS WITH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ENTITIES TO PROVIDE LEGAL SERVICES TO HOMELESS VETERANS AND VETERANS AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 20 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 2022 the following new section:

''§ 2022A. Partnerships with public and private entities to provide legal services to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness

''(a) PARTNERSHIPS AUTHORIZED.—Subject to the availability of funds for that purpose, the Secretary may enter into partnerships with public or private entities to fund a portion of the general legal services specified in subsection (c) that are provided by such entities to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness.

''(b) LOCATIONS.—The Secretary shall ensure that, to the extent practicable, partnerships under this section are made with entities equitably distributed across the geographic regions of the United States, including rural communities and tribal lands.

''(c) LEGAL SERVICES.—Legal services specified in this subsection include legal services provided by public or private entities that address the needs of homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness as follows:

''(1) Legal services related to housing, including eviction defense and representation in landlord-tenant cases.

''(2) Legal services related to family law, including assistance in court proceedings for child support, divorce, and estate planning.

''(3) Legal services related to income support, including assistance in obtaining public benefits.

''(4) Legal services related to criminal defense, including defense in matters symptomatic of homelessness, such as outstanding warrants, fines, and driver's license revocation, to reduce recidivism and facilitate the overcoming of reentry obstacles in employment or housing.

''(d) CONSULTATION.—In developing and carrying out partnerships under this section, the Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, consult with public and private entities—

''(1) for assistance in identifying and contacting organizations described in subsection (c); and

''(2) to coordinate appropriate outreach relationships with such organizations.

''(e) REPORTS.—The Secretary may require entities that have entered into partnerships under this section to submit to the Secretary periodic reports on legal services provided to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness pursuant to such partnerships.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 20 of such title is amended by adding after the item relating to section 2022 the following new item:

''2022A. Partnerships with public and private entities to provide legal services to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness.''.

SEC. 9. EXPANSION OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE DENTAL CARE TO HOMELESS VETERANS.

Subsection (b) of section 2062 of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(b) ELIGIBLE VETERANS.—(1) Subsection (a) applies to a veteran who—

''(A) is enrolled for care under section 1705(a) of this title; and

''(B) for a period of 60 consecutive days, is receiving—

''(i) assistance under section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)); or

''(ii) care (directly or by contract) in any of the following settings:

''(I) A domiciliary under section 1710 of this title.

''(II) A therapeutic residence under section 2032 of this title.

''(III) Community residential care coordinated by the Secretary under section 1730 of this title.

''(IV) A setting for which the Secretary provides funds for a grant and per diem provider.

''(2) For purposes of paragraph (1), in determining whether a veteran has received assistance or care for a period of 60 consecutive days, the Secretary may disregard breaks in the continuity of assistance or care for which the veteran is not responsible.''.

SEC. 10. EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITIES.

(a) COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE PROGRAMS.—Section 2013 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraphs (4) through (6) and inserting the following:

''(4) $250,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2012 through 2014.

''(5) $150,000,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each subsequent fiscal year.''.

(b) HOMELESS VETERANS REINTEGRATION PROGRAMS.—Section 2021(e)(1)(F) of such title is amended by striking ''2013'' and inserting ''2014''.

(c) TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION FOR SERIOUSLY MENTALLY ILL AND HOMELESS VETERANS.—Section 2031(b) of such title is amended by striking ''December 31, 2013'' and inserting ''December 31, 2014''.

(d) CENTERS FOR THE PROVISION OF COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES TO HOMELESS VETERANS.—Section 2033(d) of such title is amended by striking ''December 31, 2013'' and inserting ''December 31, 2014''.

(e) HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.—Section 2041(c) of such title is amended by striking ''December 31, 2013'' and inserting ''December 31, 2014''.

(f) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VERY LOW-INCOME VETERAN FAMILIES IN PERMANENT HOUSING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 2044(e) of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph (F):

''(F) $300,000,000 for fiscal year 2014.''.

(2) TRAINING ENTITIES FOR PROVISION OF SUPPORTIVE SERVICES.—Paragraph (3) of such section is amended by striking ''2012'' and inserting ''2014''.

(g) GRANT PROGRAM FOR HOMELESS VETERANS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.—Section 2061(d)(1) of such title is amended by striking ''for each of'' through ''shall be available'' and inserting ''for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2014, $5,000,000 shall be available''.

(h) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS FOR NONPROFIT COMMUNITY-BASED GROUPS.—Section 2064(b) of such title is amended by striking ''2012'' and inserting ''2014''.

(i) ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOMELESS VETERANS.—Section 2066(d) of such title is amended by striking ''December 31, 2013'' and inserting ''December 31, 2014''.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. COWAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. REED, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BENNET, Ms. WARREN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 836. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to strengthen the earned income tax credit and make permanent certain tax provisions under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, Senator BROWN and I are introducing important legislation to extend tax relief to working families: The Working Families Tax Relief Act of 2013.

This legislation will ensure that taxes do not increase on working families in the coming years, and will expand an effective incentive to work.

The Working Families Tax Relief Act of 2013 is pro-family, pro-work legislation that would permanently extend critical refundable tax credit provisions that have helped lift millions of working families out of poverty.

These provisions were only extended for 5 years in the American Taxpayer Relief Act, the same bill that permanently lowered the estate tax for the wealthiest Americans.

The Child Tax Credit, CTC, and the Earned Income Tax Credit, EITC, are refundable tax credits that encourage work, help families make ends meet, and lead to healthier and better educated children.

Both the Senate-passed budget and the President's FY 2014 budget request call for making these provisions permanent.

Consistent with the original goals for the EITC, the Working Families Tax Relief Act would help the only group that our Tax Code pushes into poverty: childless workers.

The EITC was designed to help childless workers offset their payroll tax liability. In reality, employees bear the burden of both the employee and employer portion of the payroll tax.

As a result, a typical single childless adult will begin to owe Federal income taxes in addition to payroll taxes when his or her income is still significantly below the poverty line. These changes will result in a full-time worker receiving the minimum wage to be eligible for the maximum earned income credit amount.

This may sound complicated, but these CTC and EITC provisions have real-world impacts.

An analysis of Census data showed that these CTC provisions lifted 900,000 people above the poverty line in 2011, using a poverty measure that counts not only cash income but also taxes and government benefits.

According to recent estimates, letting the expanded CTC expire will increase taxes on 12 million families who will see the size of their CTC credit shrink, and 5 million families will no longer be eligible for the credit at all.

The EITC has long been one of the most effective anti-poverty measures in our toolkit. In 2011, according to the Internal Revenue Service, the EITC lifted 6.6 million Americans out of poverty, 3.3 million of whom were children.

In Illinois last year, 1 million taxpayers claimed the EITC and received an average credit of about $2,300. That money isn't a hand-out, it is food on the table, school clothes for children and maybe a little bit leftover to buy Christmas presents.

When Ronald Reagan signed the 1986 Tax Reform package, he had this to say about its provisions that expanded the EITC:

> The Earned Income Tax Credit is the best anti-poverty, the best pro-family, the best job creation measure to come out of Congress.

I could not have said it better myself.

I thank Senator BROWN for his leadership on this, as a new member of the Finance Committee.

I look forward to working with him and many of my colleagues to ensure that these provisions are included in tax reform.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. CASEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. FRANKEN, and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota):

S. 837. A bill to expand and improve opportunities for beginning farmers and ranchers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, for many years we have witnessed with great regret the aging of America's farmers and ranchers and the decline in the number of agricultural operations in our country. Simply put, our nation will be stronger and better if more beginning farmers and ranchers are able to succeed those who inevitably retire and leave the business. We need new generations of farmers and ranchers to produce critical supplies of food, fuel, and fiber, to care for and conserve our soil, water, and other natural resources, and to contribute as members of healthy and vibrant rural communities. Many people across America yearn for an opportunity to get a start and build a successful agricultural operation, yet they face daunting challenges and obstacles.

The legislation we are introducing today will help families and individuals across our nation apply their talents, motivation, and dedication to start and continue farm and ranch operations and revitalize rural America. Beginning farmers and ranchers will benefit from practical assistance in this bill, including effective training and mentoring, better access to and careful use of credit, enhanced support for conservation, and help in starting and succeeding in profitable enterprises such as value-added businesses.

We have previously adopted a number of successful initiatives to assist beginning farmers and ranchers, including in the 2002 and 2008 farm bills enacted

when I was proud to serve as chairman of the Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee. This bill will extend, build upon, and strengthen existing programs and initiatives and ensure their continued effectiveness and success.

A key feature of the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Opportunity Act of 2013 is to extend and strengthen the beginning farmer and rancher development program, which we enacted in 2008. In this program, USDA provides competitively-awarded grants to qualified organizations that deliver training and education for beginning farmers and ranchers. This new legislation makes it a new priority for USDA to issue grants to support agricultural rehabilitation and vocational training for military veterans and to deliver training and education to help veterans who are beginning farmers and ranchers. The bill also would extend and increase mandatory funding for this development program to $20 million in each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018.

This legislation also strengthens in several ways the assistance USDA provides to enable beginning farmers and ranchers to assemble the financial resources they need to start and build a successful operation. It codifies in statute a microloan program in which young beginning farmers and ranchers who qualify could borrow up to $35,000 for operating expenses at reduced interest rates and with simplified paperwork. Also included in this bill is mandatory funding at $5 million a year to carry out the individual development accounts pilot program that was enacted in the 2008 farm bill. Grants under this pilot program would support State-level individual development account initiatives to help beginning farmers and ranchers build savings that can then be invested in their agricultural operations. Several other provisions of the bill update and improve the existing USDA programs to help beginning farmers and ranchers obtain loans for operating expenses, land purchases, and conservation practices.

To encourage and assist beginning farmers and ranchers in maintaining and adopting sound conservation practices, the bill extends and strengthens several initiatives enacted in previous farm bills. Of special importance, the bill expands the options and financial incentives for maintaining conservation on land that comes out of Conservation Reserve Program, CRP, contracts if it is leased or sold to beginning farmers or ranchers. Beginning farmers and ranchers would also receive more help through the Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program, enhanced whole-farm conservation planning and technical assistance, and increased advanced conservation cost-share payments.

Other features of the bill will help beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers better understand and utilize insurance programs and risk management systems. In order to help beginning farmers and ranchers build markets and increase income through adding value to their commodities, the bill enhances opportunities for beginning farmers and ranchers to receive USDA value-added producer grants and provides new, increased mandatory funding for such grants. It also creates a special USDA veterans agricultural liaison position to focus upon helping veterans understand and benefit from USDA programs, especially those for beginning farmers and ranchers.

In conclusion, I am proud of the initiatives we have previously enacted to help beginning farmers and ranchers create and pursue opportunities and realize their goals and dreams. By building on the success of the existing programs, this legislation will lend more help to beginning farmers and ranchers and in doing so strengthen American agriculture, our rural communities, and our nation as a whole. I am grateful to the cosponsors of this bill and urge all of my colleagues to support it.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 846. A bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to permit leave to care for a same-sex spouse, domestic partner, parent-in-law, adult child, sibling, grandchild, or grandparent who has a serious health condition; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Family and Medical Leave Inclusion Act. This bill, which I have also introduced in the previous two Congresses, would extend the important protections of the Family and Medical Leave Act to grandparents, grandchildren, siblings, adult children, and same-sex spouses and domestic partners throughout America.

I am pleased to introduce this bill with a coalition of Senators who are committed to ensuring justice and equality for all Americans. I would like to thank Senators LEAHY, WHITEHOUSE, SANDERS, MURRAY, COONS, GILLIBRAND, LAUTENBERG, and BLUMENTHAL for standing with me in support of the Family and Medical Leave Inclusion Act.

In 1993, Congress passed the Family and Medical Leave Act to, among other things, protect American workers facing either a personal health crisis, or that of a close family member.

People in the workforce who suffer a serious illness or significant injury should be able to take time to heal, recover, and follow their doctors' orders, without the added stress of worrying about their job status. They should be able to return to their workplaces strong, healthy, and ready to be productive again. Thanks to the FMLA, they can take the needed time knowing that their jobs will be there when they recover.

Most employees, however, are not solely concerned about their own health and wellbeing. They are also concerned about the health and wellbeing of those they love. The FMLA gave workers with a child, parent, or spouse that was sick or injured, an opportunity to provide the needed care and support, knowing that their jobs would still be there when they returned.

When it was passed, the FMLA was an important and historic expansion of our nation's laws. Unfortunately, as families have evolved and expanded, we've learned that the FMLA does not adequately nor equally protect all American families. Under current law, it is impossible for many employees to be with their loved ones during times of medical need.

As I stated when I first introduced this bill, Congress followed the lead of many large and small businesses when it enacted the FMLA. Twenty years ago, many of these businesses had already recognized and addressed the need for employees to take time off to care for themselves or a loved one that was battling a serious health condition. These companies had put in place systems that gave their employees time to heal themselves or their family members, and ensured that those employees would return to work as soon as they could.

The FMLA took the model these companies provided and brought the majority of the American workforce under the same protections.

We once again have an opportunity to learn from the best practices of American businesses who have adjusted their personnel policies and benefit packages to better meet the needs of American families, as we find them today. These businesses have assessed the composition of their workforces and realized that, in order to meet the evolving needs of their employees and enhance productivity, they needed to go one step further than the protections provided by the FMLA.

It's time that we do the same here in Congress, and recognize in law that a healthy workforce, regardless of sexual orientation, is a critical component of a healthy, modern, and efficient national economy. The Human Rights Campaign, a leading civil rights organization that strongly supports the Family and Medical Leave Inclusion Act, reports that at least 580 major American corporations, 17 States, and the District of Columbia now extend FMLA benefits to include leave on behalf' of a same-sex partners and spouses. Moreover, as of January 1st of this year, 47% of Fortune 500 companies provided health benefits to same-sex partners.

When the FMLA was signed into law, it was narrowly tailored to cover individuals caring for a very close family member. The law sought to cover that inner circle of people, where the family member assuming the caretaker role would be one of very few, if not the only person, who could do so. That idea has not changed.

What has changed are the people who might be in that inner circle. The nuclear American family has grown,

sometimes by design, and sometimes by necessity. More and more, that inner circle of close family might include a grandparent or grandchild, siblings, or same-sex domestic partners in loving and committed relationships.

As the law stands right now, too many of these people are excluded from the protections of the FMLA.

In these tough economic times, when unemployment is high and those with jobs are doing everything they can to keep them, we all know the value of job security. Hardworking Americans should not have to make the impossible choice between keeping their jobs and providing care and support for loved ones in their time of need. Twenty years ago, the FMLA ensured that millions of Americans did not have to make that choice. Now, the time has come to bring this protection into the 21st century and ensure that the security afforded by the FMLA is available to a broader range of American workers.

There are many who would understandably question what this kind of change in the law would cost the business community. Ensuring that workers can take the time they need to recover from a health emergency not only benefits an individual family, it benefits the community where the family lives and the businesses for which the family members work.

As I have stated in the past, the FMLA is already a very good law; it is already in place and it is working. It provides for unpaid leave when the need arises, and it only applies to businesses that have enough employees on hand to handle the absence of a single worker without too great a burden.

Ninety percent of the leave time that has been taken under the FMLA has been so that employees can care for themselves or for a child in their care, and those situations are already covered under the law as it stands. What the Family and Medical Leave Inclusion Act would do is provide a little more flexibility, and recognize that there are a few more people in that inner circle of family who we might call upon, or who might call upon us.

We can all agree that family is the first and best safety net in times of personal crisis. Families need to be given the realistic ability to provide that assistance. What the Family and Medical Leave Inclusion Act does is give those family members the ability to help their loved ones in ways that only they can, without fear of losing their jobs in the process.

The Family and Medical Leave Inclusion Act enhances the FMLA. Like the FMLA when it was passed two decades ago, the Family and Medical Leave Inclusion Act is long overdue. Our legislation contains reasonable changes that reflect what many of our nation's most successful businesses have already done and it accurately represents the modem American family.

The Family and Medical Leave Inclusion Act is supported by over 80 organizations from the business, civil rights, LGBT, and labor communities, including: the National Association of Working Women; AFSCME; American Academy of Pediatrics ACLU; Families USA; Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, GLAD; Human Rights Campaign; People for the American Way; SEIU and; The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights.

The Family and Medical Leave Inclusion Act is the right thing to do, and I hope we can join together and pass it on a bipartisan basis.

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. 846

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 ''Family and Medical Leave Inclusion Act''.

SEC. 2. LEAVE TO CARE FOR A SAME-SEX SPOUSE, DOMESTIC PARTNER, PARENT-IN-LAW, ADULT CHILD, SIBLING, GRANDCHILD, OR GRANDPARENT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—

(1) INCLUSION OF ADULT CHILDREN AND CHILDREN OF A DOMESTIC PARTNER.—Section 101(12) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2611(12)) is amended—

(A) by inserting ''a child of an individual's domestic partner,'' after ''a legal ward,''; and

(B) by striking ''who is—'' and all that follows and inserting ''and includes an adult child.''.

(2) INCLUSION OF GRANDCHILDREN, GRANDPARENTS, PARENTS-IN-LAW, SIBLINGS, AND DOMESTIC PARTNERS.—Section 101 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2611) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(20) DOMESTIC PARTNER.—The term 'domestic partner', used with respect to an employee, means—

''(A) the person recognized as the domestic partner of the employee under any domestic partner registry or civil union law of the State or political subdivision of a State where the employee resides, or the person who is lawfully married to the employee under the law of the State where the employee resides and who is the same sex as the employee; or

''(B) in the case of an unmarried employee who lives in a State where a person cannot marry a person of the same sex under the laws of the State, a single, unmarried adult person of the same sex as the employee who is in a committed, personal (as defined in regulations issued by the Secretary) relationship with the employee, who is not a domestic partner to any other person, and who is designated to the employer by such employee as that employee's domestic partner.

''(21) GRANDCHILD.—The term 'grandchild', used with respect to an employee, means any person who is a son or daughter of a son or daughter of the employee.

''(22) GRANDPARENT.—The term 'grandparent', used with respect to an employee, means a parent of a parent of the employee.

''(23) PARENT-IN-LAW.—The term 'parent-in-law', used with respect to an employee, means a parent of the spouse or domestic partner of the employee.

''(24) SIBLING.—The term 'sibling', used with respect to an employee, means any person who is a son or daughter of the employee's parent.

''(25) SON-IN-LAW OR DAUGHTER-IN-LAW.—The term 'son-in-law or daughter-in-law', used with respect to an employee, means any person who is a spouse or domestic partner of a son or daughter of the employee.''.

(b) LEAVE REQUIREMENT.—Section 102 of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2612) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''spouse, or a son, daughter, or parent, of the employee, if such spouse, son, daughter, or parent'' and inserting ''spouse or domestic partner, or a son, daughter, parent, parent-in-law, grandparent, or sibling, of the employee if such spouse, domestic partner, son, daughter, parent, parent-in-law, grandparent, or sibling''; and

(B) in subparagraph (E), by striking ''spouse, or a son, daughter, or parent'' and inserting ''spouse or domestic partner, or a son, daughter, parent, parent-in-law, grandchild, or sibling,'';

(2) in subsection (a)(3), by striking ''spouse, son, daughter, parent,'' and inserting ''spouse or domestic partner, son, daughter, parent, son-in-law or daughter-in-law, grandparent, sibling,'';

(3) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking ''spouse, parent,'' and inserting ''spouse, domestic partner, parent, parent-in-law, grandchild, grandparent, sibling,''; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking ''spouse, or a son, daughter, or parent,'' and inserting ''spouse or domestic partner, or a son, daughter, parent, parent-in-law, grandchild, or sibling,''; and

(4) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''a husband and wife'' and inserting ''2 spouses or 2 domestic partners''; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''that husband and wife'' and inserting ''those spouses or those domestic partners''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''the husband and wife'' and inserting ''those spouses or those domestic partners''.

(c) CERTIFICATION.—Section 103 of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2613) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''spouse, or parent'' and inserting ''spouse, domestic partner, parent, parent-in-law, grandchild, grandparent, or sibling''; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (4)(A), by striking ''spouse, or parent and an estimate of the amount of time that such employee is needed to care for the son, daughter, spouse, or parent'' and inserting ''spouse, domestic partner, parent, parent-in-law, grandparent, or sibling and an estimate of the amount of time that such employee is needed to care for such son, daughter, spouse, domestic partner, parent, parent-in-law, grandparent, or sibling''; and

(B) in paragraph (7), by striking ''parent, or spouse'' and inserting ''spouse, domestic partner, parent, parent-in-law, grandparent, or sibling''.

(d) EMPLOYMENT AND BENEFITS PROTECTION.—Section 104(c)(3) of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2614(c)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking ''spouse, or parent'' and inserting ''spouse, domestic partner, parent, parent-in-law, grandparent, or sibling''; and

(2) in subparagraph (C)(ii), by striking ''spouse, or parent'' and inserting ''spouse, domestic partner, parent, parent-in-law, grandparent, or sibling''.

SEC. 3. FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—

(1) INCLUSION OF ADULT CHILDREN AND CHILDREN OF A DOMESTIC PARTNER.—Section 6381(6) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by inserting ''a child of an individual's domestic partner,'' after ''a legal ward,''; and

(B) by striking ''who is—'' and all that follows and inserting ''and includes an adult child.''.

(2) INCLUSION OF GRANDCHILDREN, GRANDPARENTS, PARENTS-IN-LAW, SIBLINGS, AND DOMESTIC PARTNERS.—Section 6381 of such title is further amended—

(A) in paragraph (11)(B), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (12), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(13) the term 'domestic partner', used with respect to an employee, means—

''(A) the person recognized as the domestic partner of the employee under any domestic partner registry or civil union law of the State or political subdivision of a State where the employee resides, or the person who is lawfully married to the employee under the law of the State where the employee resides and who is the same sex as the employee; or

''(B) in the case of an unmarried employee who lives in a State where a person cannot marry a person of the same sex under the laws of the State, a single, unmarried adult person of the same sex as the employee who is in a committed, personal (as defined in regulations issued by the Office of Personnel Management) relationship with the employee, who is not a domestic partner to any other person, and who is designated to the employer by such employee as that employee's domestic partner;

''(14) the term 'grandchild', used with respect to an employee, means any person who is a son or daughter of a son or daughter of the employee;

''(15) the term 'grandparent', used with respect to an employee, means a parent of a parent of the employee;

''(16) the term 'parent-in-law', used with respect to an employee, means a parent of the spouse or domestic partner of the employee;

''(17) the term 'sibling', used with respect to an employee, means any person who is a son or daughter of the employee's parent; and

''(18) the term 'son-in-law or daughter-in-law', used with respect to an employee, means any person who is a spouse or domestic partner of a son or daughter of the employee.''.

(b) LEAVE REQUIREMENT.—Section 6382 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''spouse, or a son, daughter, or parent, of the employee, if such spouse, son, daughter, or parent'' and inserting ''spouse or domestic partner, or a son, daughter, parent, parent-in-law, grandparent, or sibling, of the employee, if such spouse, domestic partner, son, daughter, parent, parent-in-law, grandparent, or sibling''; and

(B) in subparagraph (E), by striking ''spouse, or a son, daughter, or parent'' and inserting ''spouse or domestic partner, or a son, daughter, parent, parent-in-law, grandchild, or sibling,'';

(2) in subsection (a)(3), by striking ''spouse, son, daughter, parent,'' and inserting ''spouse or domestic partner, son, daughter, parent, son-in-law or daughter-in-law, grandparent, sibling,''; and

(3) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking ''spouse, parent'' and inserting ''spouse, domestic partner, parent, parent-in-law, grandchild, grandparent, sibling''; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking ''spouse, or a son, daughter, or parent,'' and inserting ''spouse or domestic partner, or a son, daughter, parent, parent-in-law, grandchild, or sibling,''.

(c) CERTIFICATION.—Section 6383 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''spouse, or parent'' and inserting ''spouse, domestic partner, parent, parent-in-law, grandchild, grandparent, or sibling''; and

(2) in subsection (b)(4)(A), by striking ''spouse, or parent, and an estimate of the amount of time that such employee is needed to care for such son, daughter, spouse, or parent'' and inserting ''spouse, domestic partner, parent, parent-in-law, grandparent, or sibling and an estimate of the amount of time that such employee is needed to care for such son, daughter, spouse, domestic partner, parent, parent-in-law, grandparent, or sibling''.

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

S. 848. A bill to promote transparency by permitting the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board to allow its disciplinary proceedings to be open to the public, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am introducing the PCAOB Enforcement Transparency Act of 2013 along with my colleague Senator GRASSLEY. This bill will allow the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, PCAOB, to make public disciplinary proceedings it has brought against auditors and audit firms earlier in the process.

Slightly over 10 years ago, our markets fell victim to a series of massive financial reporting frauds, including those involving Enron and WorldCom. Public companies had produced fraudulent and materially misleading financial statements, which artificially drove their stock prices up and misrepresented their overall profitability. Once the fraud was discovered, investor confidence plummeted, as did the markets themselves. We all took a step back after this crisis and asked ourselves how such massive financial fraud in public reporting companies could have gone undetected for so long.

The Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs conducted a series of hearings on issues that were raised by the revelations raised by fraud at Enron and other public companies. The hearings produced consensus on a number of underlying causes, including weak corporate governance, a lack of accountability, and inadequate oversight of accountants charged with auditing a public company's financial statements.

In order to address the gaps and structural weaknesses revealed by the investigation and hearings, the Senate passed the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 in a 99 to 0 vote.

The Sarbanes-Oxley Act ensured that corporate officers were directly accountable for their financial reporting and for the quality of their financial statements. The law also created a strong, independent board to oversee the conduct of the auditors of public companies, the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board.

The PCAOB is responsible for overseeing auditors of public companies in order to protect investors who rely on independent audit reports on the financial statements of public companies. The Board operates under the oversight of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

The PCAOB oversees more than 2,400 registered auditing firms, as well as the thousands of audit partners and staff who contribute to a firm's work on each audit. The Board's ability to commence proceedings to determine whether there have been violations of its auditing standards or rules of professional practice is an important component of its oversight.

However, unlike other oversight bodies, such as the SEC, the U.S. Department of Labor, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, and others, the Board's disciplinary proceedings are not allowed to be public unless the parties consent. Of course, parties subject to disciplinary proceedings have no incentive to consent to publicizing their alleged wrongdoing and thus these proceedings remain cloaked behind a veil of secrecy. In addition, the Board's decisions in disciplinary proceedings are not allowed to be publicized until after the complete exhaustion of an appeals process, which can often take several years.

The PCAOB's nonpublic disciplinary proceedings create a lack of transparency that invites abuse and undermines the Congressional intent behind the establishment of the PCAOB, which was to shine a bright light on auditing firms and practices, and to bolster the accountability of auditors of public companies to the investing public.

Over the last several years, bad actors have taken advantage of the lack of transparency by using it to shield themselves from public scrutiny and accountability. PCAOB Chairman James Doty has repeatedly stated in testimony provided to both the Senate and House of Representatives over the past two years that the secrecy of the proceedings ''has a variety of unfortunate consequences'' and that such secrecy is harmful to investors, the auditing profession, and the public at large.

In one example, an accounting firm that was subject to a disciplinary proceeding continued to issue no fewer than 29 additional audit reports on public companies without any of those companies knowing about the PCAOB disciplinary proceedings. In other words, investors and the public company clients of that audit firm were deprived of relevant and material information about the proceedings against the firm and the substance of any violations.

There are several reasons why the Board's enforcement proceedings should be open and transparent. First,

as I have already noted, the closed proceedings run counter to the public proceedings of other government oversight bodies. Indeed, nearly all administrative proceedings brought by the SEC against those it regulates public companies, brokers, dealers, investment advisers, and others are open, public proceedings. The PCAOB's secret proceedings are not only shielded from the public, but from Congress as well. How can the public and Congress properly evaluate the Board's oversight of auditors and audit firms, and its enforcement program, when no one is entitled to know any of the details of these administrative proceedings, including whether a proceeding has even been initiated?

Second, the incentive to litigate cases in order to continue to shield conduct from the public as long as possible frustrates the process and requires the expenditure of needless resources by both litigants and the PCAOB.

Third, agencies such as the SEC have observed the benefits of open and transparent disciplinary proceedings, which include the benefit of informing peer audit firms of the type of activity that may give rise to enforcement action by the regulator. In effect, transparency of proceedings can serve as a deterrent to misconduct because of a perceived increase in the likelihood of ''getting caught.'' Accordingly, the audit industry as a whole would also benefit from timely, public, and nonsecret enforcement proceedings.

Our bill will make hearings by the PCAOB, and all related notices, orders, and motions, transparent and available to the public unless otherwise ordered by the Board. This would make the PCAOB's procedures similar to those of the SEC for analogous matters.

Increasing the transparency and accountability of audit firms subject to disciplinary proceedings instituted by the PCAOB is a critical component of efforts to bolster and maintain investor confidence in our financial markets, and should better protect companies as well from problematic auditors.

I hope our colleagues will join Senator GRASSLEY and me in taking the legislative steps necessary to enhance transparency in the PCAOB's enforcement process.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 851. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend to all veterans with a serious service-connected injury eligibility to participate in the family caregiver services program; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I am proud to introduce the Caregivers Expansion and Improvement Act of 2013, which will address the important needs of veterans' caregivers.

For generations, as the men and women of our armed forces returned home with serious injuries sustained overseas, their wives, husbands, parents and other family members stepped in to care for them. These family members have often provided this care at significant personal sacrifice. These caregivers' dedication to caring for the needs of their injured veterans has often resulted in lost professional opportunities and reduction in income.

Under the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010, important services and benefits were made available to seriously injured post–9/11 veterans and their families. These changes improved the lives of caregivers by giving them the support they need which, in turn, improved the lives of veterans. These services and benefits for caregivers include a tax-free monthly stipend, travel expenses, health insurance, mental health services and counseling, caregiver training and respite care for caregivers of seriously injured post–9/11 veterans. However, these services were not made available to pre–9/11 veterans with equally serious injuries and whose caregivers were in equal need of support.

Many caregivers of pre–9/11 veterans have been caring for injured veterans for years with no support from the federal government. It is time to provide equal benefits to veterans and their family members from all eras. My legislation does just that.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting equal treatment of the caregivers of our Nation's veterans and cosponsor my legislation.

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. 851

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 ''Caregivers Expansion and Improvement Act of 2013''.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION TO ALL VETERANS WITH A SERIOUS SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY OF ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN FAMILY CAREGIVER PROGRAM.

Section 1720G(a)(2)(B) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking ''on or after September 11, 2001''.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 852. A bill to improve health care furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs by increasing access to complementary and alternative medicine and other approaches to wellness and preventive care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I am proud to introduce the Veterans Health Promotion Act of 2013, which will address veterans' health and wellness.

The most recent statistics show that VA is providing health care to over 6.5 million individual veterans each year, including over 674,000 veterans from the most recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. These veterans are enrolling in VA at a rate of 56 percent, higher than any other group of veterans from previous conflicts. These veterans are receiving some of the best health care this nation has to offer. They can access this care at medical centers, outpatient clinics, vet centers, mobile clinics and through telemedicine.

Despite this access to care, many veterans still struggle with their overall wellbeing. Therefore, it is not enough to treat veterans who are very sick. When we focus solely on disease and illness, we miss the broader goal of wellness. We must expand our understanding of the care options necessary to improve veterans' lives. Therefore, I am introducing legislation which would do just that—expand veterans' access a full spectrum of care including wellness and Complementary and Alternative Medicine—known as CAM.

VA has made significant strides in providing CAM at VA medical centers. As the name describes, CAM therapies can serve as a complement to traditional care or, for some veterans, as an alternative. There is a growing body of evidence to support the value of these therapies but greater understanding can be achieved through the expansion of these services to more veterans. The legislation I am introducing today would do just that.

This expansion would occur through the Veterans Health Administration's Center of Innovation, which is developing, demonstrating and evaluating veteran-centered health care policies. To date, VA has established five such centers. My legislation would increase the number of these Centers of Innovation, establishing at least one in each of VA's 23 Veterans Integrated Service Networks. My legislation would create a total of fifteen pilot sites to provide CAM therapies to veterans throughout the nation. Five of the pilot sites would be located at VA's Polytrauma Centers, which care for veterans with the most complex injuries. The remaining ten would provide CAM therapies within primary care settings.

Additionally, my legislation would require VA to study barriers to providing and promoting preventive and holistic approaches to health care, including CAM and wellness, in the primary care setting. When we understand these barriers we can find a way to break them down, furthering opportunities to enhance the overall health and sense of wellbeing among veterans.

The legislation would also authorize grants to state and city agencies, and community-based nonprofit organizations to provide combat veterans and their family members access to wellness programs. By leveraging these outside organizations while improving their collaboration with VA, we can improve access to wellness programs without sacrificing VA's valuable model of care coordination.

An important component for maintaining a healthy lifestyle is physical activity. One of the best ways to improve the health of a population is to increase access to opportunities for physical activity. When coupled with a healthy diet, physical fitness can help promote weight loss and lower the risk of diabetes, heart attack and stroke. Therefore, my legislation would create a pilot program to provide fitness center memberships for overweight and obese veterans, in consultation with their VA health care provider. The pilot program would be over a 2-year period at 10 pilot sites. Additionally, the legislation would require VA to partner with fitness centers to improve access for veterans.

Finally, we must ensure CAM, wellness and fitness options are not only available to veterans, but are also utilized by veterans. Therefore, my legislation would require VA to study the barriers that exist across VHA in providing and promoting preventative and holistic approaches to health care, to include Complementary and Alternative Medicine and Wellness, in the primary care setting in order to enhance their overall health and sense of wellbeing among veterans.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and I look forward to working with them to continue to improve health care access for our veterans.

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. 852

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 ''Veterans' Health Promotion Act of 2013''.

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION AND OPERATION OF CENTERS OF INNOVATION FOR COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE IN HEALTH CARE RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND CLINICAL ACTIVITIES.

(a) DESIGNATION AND OPERATION OF CENTERS OF INNOVATION.—Subchapter II of chapter 73 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 7330B. Centers of innovation for complementary and alternative medicine in health care research, education, and clinical activities

''(a) DESIGNATION AND OPERATION.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Office of Patient Centered Care for Cultural Transformation, shall designate and operate at least one center of innovation for complementary and alternative medicine in health research, education, and clinical activities in each Veterans Integrated Service Networks.

''(b) FUNCTIONS.—The functions of the centers of innovation designated and operated under subsection (a) are as follows:

''(1) To conduct research on the furnishing of complementary and alternative medicine in health care.

''(2) To develop specific models to be used by the Department in furnishing services to veterans consisting of complementary and alternative medicine.

''(3) To provide education and training for health care professionals of the Department on—

''(A) the furnishing of services consisting of complementary and alternative medicine to veterans; or

''(B) providing referrals to veterans for the receipt of such services.

''(4) To develop and implement innovative clinical activities and systems of care for the Department for the furnishing of services consisting of complementary and alternative medicine to veterans.

''(c) GEOGRAPHIC DISPERSION.—The Secretary shall ensure that the centers designated and operated under this section are located at health care facilities that are geographically dispersed throughout the United States.

''(d) FUNDING.—(1) There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such sums as may be necessary for the support of the research and education activities of the centers operated under this section.

''(2) Activities of clinical and scientific investigation at each center operated under this section—

''(A) shall be eligible to compete for the award of funding from funds appropriated for the Medical and Prosthetics Research Account; and

''(B) shall receive priority in the award of funding from such account to the extent that funds are awarded to projects for research on the care of rural veterans.

''(e) COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'complementary and alternative medicine' shall have the meaning given that term in regulations the Secretary shall prescribe for purposes of this section, which shall, to the degree practicable, be consistent with the meaning given such term by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 73 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 7330A the following new item:

''7330B. Centers of Innovation for complementary and alternative medicine in health care research, education, and clinical activities.''.

SEC. 3. PILOT PROGRAM ON ESTABLISHMENT OF COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE CENTERS WITHIN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTERS.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED.—Commencing not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out, through the Office of Patient Centered Care and Cultural Transformation of the Department of Veterans Affairs, a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of establishing complementary and alternative medicine centers within Department medical centers to promote the use and integration of complementary and alternative medicine services for mental health diagnoses and pain management.

(b) DURATION OF PROGRAM.—The pilot program shall be carried out during the three-year period beginning on the date of the commencement of the pilot program.

(c) LOCATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out the pilot program by establishing not fewer than 15 complementary and alternative medicine centers in 15 separate Department medical centers as follows:

(A) Five Department medical centers designated by the Secretary as polytrauma centers.

(B) Ten Department medical center not designated by Secretary as polytrauma centers.

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In selecting locations for the pilot program, the Secretary shall consider the feasibility and advisability of selecting locations in—

(A) rural areas;

(B) areas that are not in close proximity to an active duty military installation; and

(C) areas representing different geographic locations, such as census tracts established by the Bureau of the Census.

(d) PROVISION OF SERVICES.—Under the pilot program, the Secretary shall provide covered services to covered veterans through the complementary and alternative medicine centers established under subsection (c)(1).

(e) COVERED VETERANS.—For purposes of the pilot program, a covered veteran is any veteran who has—

(1) a mental health condition diagnosed by a clinician of the Department; or

(2) a pain condition for which the veteran has received a pain management plan from a clinician of the Department.

(f) COVERED SERVICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of the pilot program, covered services are services consisting of complementary or alternative medicine.

(2) ADMINISTRATION OF SERVICES.—Covered services shall be administered under the pilot program as follows:

(A) Covered services shall be administered by clinicians who exclusively provide services consisting of complementary or alternative medicine.

(B) Covered services shall be included as part of the Patient Aligned Care Teams initiative of the Office of Patient Care Services, Primary Care Program Office.

(C) Covered services shall be made available to both—

(i) covered veterans with mental health conditions or pain conditions described in subsection (e) who have received traditional treatments from the Department for such conditions; and

(ii) covered veterans with mental health conditions or pain conditions described in subsection (e) who have not received traditional treatments from the Department for such conditions.

(g) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.—The participation of a veteran in the pilot program shall be at the election of the veteran and in consultation with a clinician of the Department.

(h) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

(1) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the commencement of the pilot program and not less frequently than once every 90 days thereafter for the duration of the pilot program, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the efforts of the Secretary to carry out the pilot program, including a description of the outreach conducted by the Secretary to veterans and community organizations to inform such organizations about the pilot program.

(2) FINAL REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the completion of the pilot program, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the pilot program.

(B) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include the following:

(i) The findings and conclusions of the Secretary with respect to the pilot program, including with respect to the utilization and efficacy of the complementary and alternative medicine centers established under the pilot program.

(ii) Such recommendations for the continuation or expansion of the pilot program as the Secretary considers appropriate.

SEC. 4. PILOT PROGRAM ON USE OF WELLNESS PROGRAMS AS COMPLEMENTARY APPROACH TO MENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR VETERANS AND FAMILY MEMBERS OF VETERANS.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a pilot program through the award of grants to public or private nonprofit entities to assess the feasibility and advisability of using wellness programs to complement the provision of mental health care to veterans and family members eligible for counseling under section 1712A(a)(1)(C) of title 38, United States Code.

(2) MATTERS TO BE ADDRESSED.—The pilot program shall be carried out so as to assess the following:

(A) Means of improving coordination between Federal, State, local, and community providers of health care in the provision of mental health care to veterans and family members described in paragraph (1).

(B) Means of enhancing outreach, and coordination of outreach, by and among providers of health care referred to in subparagraph (A) on the mental health care services available to veterans and family members described in paragraph (1).

(C) Means of using wellness programs of providers of health care referred to in subparagraph (A) as complements to the provision by the Department of Veterans Affairs of mental health care to veterans and family members described in paragraph (1).

(D) Whether wellness programs described in subparagraph (C) are effective in enhancing the quality of life and well-being of veterans and family members described in paragraph (1).

(E) Whether wellness programs described in subparagraph (C) are effective in increasing the adherence of veterans described in paragraph (1) to the primary mental health services provided such veterans by the Department.

(F) Whether wellness programs described in subparagraph (C) have an impact on the sense of wellbeing of veterans described in paragraph (1) who receive primary mental health services from the Department.

(G) Whether wellness programs described in subparagraph (C) are effective in encouraging veterans receiving health care from the Department to adopt a more healthy lifestyle.

(b) DURATION.—The Secretary shall carry out the pilot program for a period of three years beginning on the date that is 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) LOCATIONS.—The Secretary shall carry out the pilot program at facilities of the Department providing mental health care services to veterans and family members described in subsection (a)(1).

(d) GRANT PROPOSALS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A public or private nonprofit entity seeking the award of a grant under this section shall submit an application therefor to the Secretary in such form and in such manner as the Secretary may require.

(2) APPLICATION CONTENTS.—Each application submitted under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A plan to coordinate activities under the pilot program, to the extent possible, with the Federal, State, and local providers of services for veterans to enhance the following:

(i) Awareness by veterans of benefits and health care services provided by the Department.

(ii) Outreach efforts to increase the use by veterans of services provided by the Department.

(iii) Educational efforts to inform veterans of the benefits of a healthy and active lifestyle.

(B) A statement of understanding from the entity submitting the application that, if selected, such entity will be required to report to the Secretary periodically on standardized data and other performance data necessary to evaluate individual outcomes and to facilitate evaluations among entities participating in the pilot program.

(C) Other requirements that the Secretary may prescribe.

(e) GRANT USES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A public or private nonprofit entity awarded a grant under this section shall use the award for purposes prescribed by the Secretary.

(2) ELIGIBLE VETERANS AND FAMILY.—In carrying out the purposes prescribed by the Secretary in paragraph (1), a public or private nonprofit entity awarded a grant under this section shall use the award to furnish services only to individuals specified in section 1712A(a)(1)(C) of title 38, United States Code.

(f) REPORTS.—

(1) PERIODIC REPORTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the pilot program.

(B) REPORT ELEMENTS.—Each report required by subparagraph (A) shall include the following:

(i) The findings and conclusions of the Secretary with respect to the pilot program during the 180-day period preceding the report.

(ii) An assessment of the benefits of the pilot program to veterans and their family members during the 180-day period preceding the report.

(2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the end of the pilot program, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report detailing the recommendations of the Secretary as to the advisability of continuing or expanding the pilot program.

(g) WELLNESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''wellness'' shall have the meaning given that term in regulations prescribed by the Secretary.

SEC. 5. PILOT PROGRAM ON HEALTH PROMOTION FOR OVERWEIGHT AND OBESE VETERANS THROUGH SUPPORT OF FITNESS CENTER MEMBERSHIP.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED.—Commencing not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, through the National Center for Preventive Health, carry out a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of promoting health in covered veterans, including achieving a healthy weight and reducing risks of chronic disease, through support for fitness center membership.

(b) COVERED VETERANS.—For purposes of this section, a covered veteran is any veteran who—

(1) is determined by a clinician of the Department of Veterans Affairs to be overweight or obese as of the date of the commencement of the pilot program; and

(2) resides in a location that is more than 15 minutes driving distance from a fitness center at a facility of the Department that would otherwise be available to the veteran for at least eight hours per day during five or more days per week.

(c) DURATION OF PILOT PROGRAM.—The pilot program shall be carried out during the two-year period beginning on the date of the commencement of the pilot program.

(d) LOCATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the pilot program, the Secretary shall select—

(A) not less than five medical centers of the Department at which the Secretary shall cover the full reasonable cost of a fitness center membership for covered veterans within the catchment area of such centers; and

(B) not less than five medical centers of the Department at which the Secretary shall cover half the reasonable cost of a fitness center membership for covered veterans within the catchment area of such centers.

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In selecting locations for the pilot program, the Secretary shall consider the feasibility and advisability of selecting locations in the following areas:

(A) Rural areas.

(B) Areas that are not in close proximity to an active duty military installation.

(C) Areas in different geographic locations.

(e) PARTICIPATION.—

(1) MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS.—The number of covered veterans who may participate in the pilot program at a location selected under subsection (d) may not exceed 100.

(2) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.—The participation of a covered veteran in the pilot program shall be at the election of the covered veteran in consultation with a clinician of the Department.

(f) MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), in carrying out the pilot program, the Secretary shall pay the following:

(A) The full reasonable cost of a fitness center membership for covered veterans within the catchment area of centers selected under subsection (b)(1)(A) who are participating in the pilot program.

(B) Half the reasonable cost of a fitness center membership for covered veterans within the catchment area of centers selected under subsection (b)(1)(B) who are participating in the pilot program.

(2) LIMITATION.—Payment for a fitness center membership of a covered veteran may not exceed $50 per month of membership.

(g) REPORTS.—

(1) PERIODIC REPORTS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the commencement of the pilot program and not less frequently than once every 90 days thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on activities carried out to implement the pilot program, including outreach activities to veterans and community organizations.

(2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the completion of the pilot program, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the pilot program detailing—

(A) the findings and conclusions of the Secretary as a result of the pilot program; and

(B) recommendations for the continuation or expansion of the pilot program.

SEC. 6. PILOT PROGRAM ON HEALTH PROMOTION FOR VETERANS THROUGH ESTABLISHMENT OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FITNESS FACILITIES.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED.—Commencing not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of promoting health in covered veterans, including achieving a healthy weight, through establishment of Department of Veterans Affairs fitness facilities.

(b) COVERED VETERANS.—For purposes of this section, a covered veteran is any veteran who is enrolled in the system of annual patient enrollment established and operated by the Secretary under section 1705 of title 38, United States Code.

(c) DURATION OF PILOT PROGRAM.—The pilot program shall be carried out during the three-year period beginning on the date of the commencement of the pilot program.

(d) LOCATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out the pilot program by establishing fitness facilities in Department facilities as follows:

(A) In not fewer than five Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers selected by the Secretary for purposes of the pilot program.

(B) In not fewer than five outpatient clinics of the Department selected by the Secretary for purposes of the pilot program.

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In selecting locations for the pilot program, the Secretary shall consider the feasibility and advisability of selecting locations in the following areas:

(A) Rural areas.

(B) Areas that are not in close proximity to an active duty military installation.

(C) Areas in different geographic locations.

(e) LIMITATION ON EXPENSES.—In establishing and supporting a fitness facility in a facility of the Department under the pilot program, the Secretary may expend amounts as follows:

(1) For establishment and support of a fitness facility in a Department of Veterans Affairs medical center, not more than $60,000.

(2) For establishment and support of a fitness facility in an outpatient clinic of the Department, not more than $40,000.

(f) RENOVATIONS AND PURCHASES.—Subject to subsection (e), the Secretary may, in carrying out the pilot program, make such renovations to physical facilities of the Department and purchase such fitness equipment and supplies as the Secretary considers appropriate for purposes of the pilot program.

(g) PROHIBITION ON ASSESSMENT OF USER FEES.—The Secretary may not assess a fee upon a covered veteran for use of a fitness facility established under the pilot program.

(h) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.—The participation of a covered veteran in the pilot program shall be at the election of the covered veteran.

(i) REPORTS.—

(1) PERIODIC REPORTS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the commencement of the pilot program and not less frequently than once every 90 days thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on activities carried out to implement the pilot program, including outreach activities to veterans and community organizations.

(2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the completion of the pilot program, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the pilot program detailing—

(A) the findings and conclusions of the Secretary as a result of the pilot program; and

(B) recommendations for the continuation or expansion of the pilot program.

SEC. 7. STUDY OF BARRIERS ENCOUNTERED BY VETERANS IN RECEIVING COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE FROM DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct a comprehensive study of the barriers encountered by veterans in receiving complementary and alternative medicine from the Department of Veterans Affairs. In conducting the study, the Secretary shall—

(1) survey veterans who seek or receive hospital care or medical services furnished by the Department, as well as veterans who do not seek or receive such care or services;

(2) administer the survey to a representative sample of veterans from each Veterans Integrated Service Network; and

(3) ensure that the sample of veterans surveyed is of sufficient size for the study results to be statistically significant.

(b) ELEMENTS OF STUDY.—In conducting the study required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall study the following:

(1) The perceived barriers associated with obtaining complementary and alternative medicine services from the Department.

(2) The satisfaction of veterans with complementary and alternative medicine in primary care.

(3) The degree to which veterans are aware of eligibility requirements for, and the scope of services available under, complementary and alternative medicine furnished by the Department.

(4) The effectiveness of outreach to veterans on the availability of complementary and alternative medicine for veterans.

(5) Such other barriers as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(c) DISCHARGE BY CONTRACT.—The Secretary shall enter into a contract with a qualified independent entity or organization to carry out the study required by this section.

(d) MANDATORY REVIEW OF DATA BY CERTAIN DEPARTMENT DIVISIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ensure that the head of each division of the Department specified in paragraph (2) reviews the results of the study conducted under this section. The head of each such division shall submit findings with respect to the study to the Under Secretary for Health and to other pertinent program offices within the Department with responsibilities relating to health care services for veterans.

(2) SPECIFIED DIVISIONS.—The divisions of the Department specified in this paragraph are the following:

(A) The centers for innovation established under section 7330B of title 38, United States Code, as added by section 2.

(B) The Health Services Research and Development Service Scientific Merit Review Board.

(e) REPORTS.—

(1) REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the status of the implementation of this section.

(2) REPORT ON STUDY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 45 days after the date of the completion of the study, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the study required by subsection (a).

(B) CONTENTS.—The report required by subparagraph (A) shall include the following:

(i) Recommendations for such administrative and legislative proposals and actions as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(ii) The findings of the head of each division of the Department specified under subsection (d)(2) and of the Under Secretary for Health.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary $2,000,000 to carry out this section.

SEC. 8. COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE DEFINED.

In this Act, the term ''complementary and alternative medicine'' shall have the meaning given such term under section 7330B of title 38, United States Code, as added by section 2.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 115—COMMENDING THE HEROISM, COURAGE, AND SACRIFICE OF SEAN COLLIER, AN OFFICER IN THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY POLICE DEPARTMENT, MARTIN RICHARD, AN 8-YEAR-OLD RESIDENT OF DORCHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS, KRYSTLE CAMPBELL, A NATIVE OF MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS, LU LINGZI, A STUDENT AT BOSTON UNIVERSITY, AND ALL THE VICTIMS WHO ARE RECOVERING FROM INJURIES CAUSED BY THE ATTACKS IN BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, INCLUDING RICHARD DONOHUE, JR., AN OFFICER IN THE MASSACHUSETTS BAY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY TRANSIT POLICE DEPARTMENT

Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. COWAN, Mr. REID, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COATS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 115

Whereas, in the aftermath of the deadly bombings that occurred on Patriots' Day, April 15, 2013, during the running of the 117th Boston Marathon, the residents of Massachusetts and the people of the United States witnessed the incredible bravery, dedication, and sacrifice of law enforcement officers, first responders, and citizen heroes;

Whereas Sean Collier of Wilmington, Massachusetts, an officer in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (referred to in this preamble as ''MIT'') Police Department, gave his life in the line of duty, the ultimate sacrifice;