

EC-1440. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Financial Stability Oversight Council 2013 annual report to Congress; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 911. A bill to establish an emergency transportation safety fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MCCAIN:

S. 912. A bill to allow multichannel video programming distributors to provide video programming to subscribers on an a la carte basis, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. REED, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. COWAN, Mr. COONS, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 913. A bill to amend the National Oilheat Research Alliance Act of 2000 to reauthorize and improve that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. COCHRAN (for himself and Mr. WICKER):

S. 914. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit direct payment to pharmacies for certain compounded drugs that are prepared by the pharmacies for a specific beneficiary for use through an implanted infusion pump; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 915. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to update reporting requirements for institutions of higher education and provide for more accurate and complete data on student retention, graduation, and earnings outcomes at all levels of postsecondary enrollment; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 916. A bill to authorize the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 under the American Battlefield Protection Program; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COONS, Mr. COWAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. TESTER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. KING):

S. 917. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a reduced rate of excise tax on beer produced domestically by certain qualifying producers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 918. A bill to award grants in order to establish longitudinal personal college readiness and savings online platforms for low-income students; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. TESTER, Mr. UDALL of New

Mexico, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 919. A bill to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to provide further self-governance by Indian tribes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 920. A bill to allow the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa in the State of Minnesota to lease or transfer certain land; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 921. A bill to amend chapter 301 of title 49, United States Code, to prohibit the rental of motor vehicles that contain a defect related to motor vehicle safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 922. A bill to require the Secretary of Labor to carry out a pilot program on providing wage subsidies to employers who employ certain veterans and members of the Armed Forces and require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on providing career transition services to young veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. UDALL of New Mexico:

S. 923. A bill to modernize the conservation title of the Food Security Act of 1985, protect long term taxpayer investment, increase small and midsize farmer's access to programs, and prioritize modern-day conservation needs through management practices, local engagement, and stewardship; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 924. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to enhance existing programs providing mitigation assistance by encouraging States to adopt and actively enforce State building codes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 925. A bill to improve the Lower East Side Tenement National Historic Site, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BEGICH:

S. 926. A bill to amend title 32, United States Code, to include the National Guard Educational Foundation among the youth and charitable organizations eligible for National Guard assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 927. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a demonstration project to assess the feasibility and advisability of using State and local government agencies and nonprofit organizations to increase awareness of benefits and services for veterans and to improve coordination of outreach activities relating to such benefits and services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 928. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the processing of claims for compensation under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 929. A bill to impose sanctions on individuals who are complicit in human rights

abuses committed against nationals of Vietnam or their family members, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BEGICH, and Ms. HIRONO):

S.J. Res. 15. A joint resolution removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. MIKULSKI:

S. Res. 135. A resolution designating the week of October 7 through October 13, 2013, as "Naturopathic Medicine Week" to recognize the value of naturopathic medicine in providing safe, effective, and affordable health care; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BEGICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. Res. 136. A resolution recognizing the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice and the Mutual Defense Treaty of 1953, and congratulating Park Geun-Hye on her election to the Presidency of the Republic of Korea; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. NELSON (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. COONS):

S. Res. 137. A resolution designating May 2013 as "Older Americans Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BURR, Mr. CARPER, Mr. KIRK, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. Res. 138. A resolution congratulating the students, parents, teachers, and administrators of charter schools across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education, and supporting the ideals and goals of the 14th annual National Charter Schools Week, to be celebrated the week of May 5 through May 11, 2013; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 141

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 141, a bill to make supplemental agricultural disaster assistance available for fiscal years 2012 and 2013, and for other purposes.

S. 186

At the request of Mr. SHELBY, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Texas (Mr.

CORNYN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNES), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. McCONNELL), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RITCHIE), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. McCASKILL), the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 186, a bill to award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley, in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, where the 4 little Black girls lost their lives, which served as a catalyst for the Civil Rights Movement.

At the request of Mr. COBURN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 186, *supra*.

S. 309

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 309, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II members of the Civil Air Patrol.

S. 316

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

S. 323

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 323, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for extended months of Medicare coverage of immunosuppressive drugs for kidney transplant patients and other renal dialysis provisions.

S. 330

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 330, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish safeguards and standards of quality for research and transplantation of organs infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

S. 369

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 369, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking minors across State lines in circumvention of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions.

S. 370

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 370, a bill to improve and expand geographic literacy among kindergarten through grade 12 students in the United States by improving professional development programs for kindergarten through grade 12 teachers offered through institutions of higher education.

S. 403

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 403, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to address and take action to prevent bullying and harassment of students.

S. 407

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr.

ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 407, a bill to provide funding for construction and major rehabilitation for projects located on inland and intra-coastal waterways of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 422

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 422, a bill to amend the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Programs Enhancement Act of 2001 and title 38, United States Code, to require the provision of chiropractic care and services to veterans at all Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers and to expand access to such care and services, and for other purposes.

S. 448

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 448, a bill to allow seniors to file their Federal income tax on a new Form 1040SR.

S. 462

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

S. 526

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 526, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions, and for other purposes.

S. 538

At the request of Mrs. McCASKILL, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 538, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to modify the authorities and responsibilities of convening authorities in taking actions on the findings and sentences of courts-martial.

S. 557

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 557, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to medication therapy management under part D of the Medicare program.

S. 674

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 674, a bill to require prompt responses from the heads of covered Federal agencies when the Secretary of Veterans Affairs requests information necessary to adjudicate claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes.

S. 707

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of

S. 707, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend the reduced interest rate for Federal Direct Stafford Loans.

S. 731

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 731, a bill to require the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency to conduct an empirical impact study on proposed rules relating to the International Basel III agreement on general risk-based capital requirements, as they apply to community banks.

S. 742

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 742, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes.

S. 789

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor 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. 813

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 813, a bill to require that Peace Corps volunteers be subject to the same limitations regarding coverage of abortion services as employees of the Peace Corps with respect to coverage of such services, and for other purposes.

S. 815

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 815, a bill to prohibit the employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

S. 831

At the request of Mr. COATS, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 831, a bill to limit the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to issue regulations before December 31, 2017, under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977.

S. 837

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 837, a bill to expand and improve opportunities for beginning farmers and ranchers, and for other purposes.

S. 842

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 842, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an extension of the Medicare-dependent hospital (MDH) program and the in-

creased payments under the Medicare low-volume hospital program.

S. 850

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 850, a bill to prohibit the National Labor Relations Board from taking any action that requires a quorum of the members of the Board until such time as Board constituting a quorum shall have been confirmed by the Senate, the Supreme Court issues a decision on the constitutionality of the appointments to the Board made in January 2012, or the adjournment sine die of the first session of the 113th Congress.

S. 865

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 865, a bill to provide for the establishment of a Commission to Accelerate the End of Breast Cancer.

S. 870

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 870, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants to promote the education of pregnant and parenting students.

S. 871

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 871, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance assistance for victims of sexual assault committed by members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 888

At the request of Mr. JOHANNES, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 888, a bill to provide end user exemptions from certain provisions of the Commodity Exchange Act and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

S. 890

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) were added as cosponsors of S. 890, a bill to clarify the definition of navigable waters, and for other purposes.

S. 892

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 892, a bill to amend the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 to impose sanctions with respect to certain transactions in foreign currencies, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 15

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor 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.

S. RES. 78

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 78, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Professional Social Work Month and World Social Work Day.

S. RES. 133

At the request of Mr. LEE, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARASSO), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 133, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that Congress and the States should investigate and correct abusive, unsanitary, and illegal abortion practices.

AMENDMENT NO. 802

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 802 intended to be proposed to S. 601, a bill to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 809

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 809 intended to be proposed to S. 601, a bill to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 837

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 837 intended to be proposed to S. 601, a bill to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 839

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 839 intended to be proposed to S. 601, a bill to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to

authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 848

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 848 intended to be proposed to S. 601, a bill to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 854

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 854 intended to be proposed to S. 601, a bill to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 856

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 856 intended to be proposed to S. 601, a bill to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 857

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 857 intended to be proposed to S. 601, a bill to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. MCCAIN:

S. 912. A bill to allow multichannel video programming distributors to provide video programming to subscribers on an a la carte basis, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. MCCAIN. Today I am introducing the Television Consumer Freedom Act of 2013. The legislation has three principal objectives:

One, encourage the wholesale and retail unbundling of programming by distributors and programmers. Allow the consumer, the television viewer who subscribes to cable, to have a la carte capability—in other words, not be required to buy a whole bunch of chan-

nels that consumer may not wish to subscribe to—in order words, a la carte. If you want to watch one television program, you can watch it. If you do not, you do not have to. The situation today obviously is far different from that.

It would also establish consequences if broadcasters choose to downgrade their over-the-air service.

Three, it eliminates the sports blackout rule for events that are held in publicly financed stadiums.

For over 15 years, I have supported giving consumers the ability to buy cable channels individually, which is known as a la carte, to provide consumers more control over viewing options in their homes and, as a result, their monthly cable bills. The video industry—principally cable companies and satellite companies and the programmers that sell channels, such as NBC and Disney-ABC—continues to give consumers two options when buying TV programming: first, to purchase a package of channels whether they watch them all or not or, second, not purchase any cable programming at all.

There are two choices: You can either buy one of their packages or not watch it at all. That is unfair and wrong, especially when you consider how the regulatory deck is stacked in favor of industry against the American consumer. It is clear when one looks at how cable prices have gone up over the last 15 years, which was brought to the light by the most recent Federal Communications Commission pricing survey. In the FCC survey, the average monthly price of expanded basic service—basic service—for all communities surveyed increased 5.4 percent over the 12 months ending January 1, 2011, or to \$54.46, compared to an increase of 1.6 percent in the Consumer Price Index. In other words, the cost of cable went up nearly four times the consumer prices people pay for everything else. You can only do that when you have a monopoly.

Over the last 15 years, this rise in cost has become even more evident. According to the FCC, the price of expanded basic cable has gone up at a compound average annual growth rate of 6.1 percent during the period from 1995 to 2011. This means that the average annual cable price has gone up about \$25 a month from 1995, to over \$54 today. That is a 100-percent price increase. People are on fixed incomes. People are hurting. Why in the world should they have a 100-percent cost increase? The only way it can be done is through monopolies.

Those that provide video directly to consumers, such as cable and satellite companies, are not solely to blame for the high prices consumers face today. Many articles have been written about the packages of channels—commonly called bundles—that are sold to cable and satellite companies by video programmers such as Comcast, NBC, Time Warner, Viacom, and the Walt Disney

Company, which owns 80 percent of ESPN.

The worldwide leader in sports, as ESPN calls itself, thrives because of the advertising revenue it is able to generate and large subscriber fees. According to a January 2012 Newsweek article, ESPN charges \$4.69 per household per month, citing a research company. By comparison, the next costliest national network, TNT, costs \$1.16. Again, \$4.69 for ESPN and the next most expensive one is \$1.16 for TNT. Whether or not you watch ESPN—and I do all the time—all cable subscribers are forced to absorb this cost. Not every American watches ESPN. Not every American should be forced to watch ESPN and pay \$4.69 per household per month in order to have it carried into their homes when they do not view it. Because these channels are bundled into packages, all cable consumers, whether they watch sports or not, are paying for them anyway.

Cable and satellite carriers that consider dropping ESPN must also contemplate losing other channels in the bundle, such as the Disney Channel. Some have described this as “a tax on every American household.”

Others, like the CEO of the American Cable Association, have said:

My next-door neighbor is 74, a widow. She says to me, “Why do I have to get all that sports programming?” She has no idea that in the course of a year, for just ESPN and ESPN2, she is sending a check to Disney for about \$70. She would be apoplectic if she knew . . . Ultimately there is going to be a revolt over the cost. Or policymakers will get involved because the cost of these things are so out of line with the cost of living that someone's going to put up a stop sign.

Today we are putting up a stop sign. We are going to find out how powerful these companies are, as opposed to clearly correcting an injustice that is being inflicted on the American people. This legislation would eliminate regulatory barriers to a la carte by freeing up multichannel video programming distributors, such as cable, satellite, and others offering video services, to offer any video programming service on an a la carte basis. But if they want to keep bundling, they can do that too. They can make both offers to the American subscriber.

In order to give these companies an incentive to offer programming on an a la carte basis, the legislation links the availability of the compulsory copyright license to the voluntary offering of a la carte service by the MVPD. In other words, if these companies do not offer a broadcast station and any other channels owned by the broadcaster on an a la carte basis, then that company cannot rely on the compulsory license to carry those broadcast stations. The compulsory license is a benefit conferred on these corporations, so it is reasonable to ask the recipients of that benefit to provide consumers with an a la carte option. I emphasize “an option.”

To address the notion that a la carte options are being denied distributors,