

Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation.

S. 761

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) were added as cosponsors of S. 761, a bill to promote energy savings in residential and commercial buildings and industry, and for other purposes.

S. 762

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 762, a bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to improve the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

S. 783

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) were added as cosponsors 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 Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) 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. 813

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, her 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 names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 815, a bill to prohibit the employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

S. 820

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 820, a bill to provide for a uniform national standard for the housing and treatment of egg-laying hens, and for other purposes.

S. 865

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 865, a bill to provide for the establishment of a Commission to Accelerate the End of Breast Cancer.

S. 871

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Illinois (Mr.

DURBIN), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) 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. 892

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor 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. 897

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 897, a bill to prevent the doubling of the interest rate for Federal subsidized student loans for the 2013-2014 academic year by providing funds for such loans through the Federal Reserve System, to ensure that such loans are available at interest rates that are equivalent to the interest rates at which the Federal Government provides loans to banks through the discount window operated by the Federal Reserve System, and for other purposes.

S. 917

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of 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.

S. 937

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) were added as cosponsors of S. 937, a bill to prohibit the Internal Revenue Service from applying disproportionate scrutiny to applicants for tax-exempt status based on ideology, and for other purposes.

S. 941

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 941, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prevent discriminatory misconduct against taxpayers by Federal officers and employees, and for other purposes.

S. 942

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 942, a bill to eliminate discrimination and promote women's health and economic security by ensuring reasonable workplace accommodations for workers whose ability to perform the functions of a job are limited by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition.

S. 947

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 947, a bill to ensure access to certain information for financial services industry regulators, and for other purposes.

S. 953

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 953, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend the reduced interest rate for undergraduate Federal Direct Stafford Loans, to modify required distribution rules for pension plans, to limit earnings stripping by expatriated entities, to provide for modifications related to the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 75

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 75, a resolution condemning the Government of Iran for its state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

AMENDMENT NO. 866

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 866 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. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. ENZI):

S. 966. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase participation in medical flexible spending arrangements; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Medical FSA Improvement Act of 2013. I wish to thank my friend and colleague, Senator ENZI, for joining me in this effort. Our bill would amend the Internal Revenue Code to allow employees who use health flexible spending arrangements, FSAs, to cash out any remaining balance in their account at the end of a plan year. This provision replaces current IRS policy in which any unspent FSA funds revert to the employer at the end of the plan year for activities related to plan administration.

FSAs are an important benefit for all workers as they allow employees to set

aside pre-tax dollars to pay for out-of-pocket health care expenditures, including dental and vision services. Many families count on their FSAs to help cover their monthly expenses for prescription drugs, co-pays for doctors' visits, children's dental care, and medical equipment and supplies for disabled family members.

In an economy where every penny counts, it just does not make sense for employees who may have overestimated their anticipated yearly out-of-pocket health care expenditures at the beginning of a plan year to be penalized by having to forfeit unspent funds to their employer at the end of a plan year. It also leads to wasteful spending when employees try to avoid forfeiting their FSA balances by rushing at the end of a plan year to purchase unnecessary health-related items, such as multiple pairs of eyeglasses.

One-third of the Federal workforce currently use FSAs, as do millions of State, county and local public employees, and workers in private industry. We should encourage employees to put money into FSAs to help defray their out-of-pocket health care costs, to use these funds wisely, and not have them fear losing hard-earned money at the end of a plan year just because their health care expenditures may be less than anticipated.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, which will help America's working families better manage their personal finances.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 142—DESIGNATING MAY 15, 2013, AS "NATIONAL MPS AWARENESS DAY"

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BEGICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mrs. BOXER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 142

Whereas mucopolysaccharidosis (referred to in this resolution as "MPS") are a group of genetically determined lysosomal storage diseases that render the human body incapable of producing certain enzymes needed to break down complex carbohydrates;

Whereas MPS diseases cause complex carbohydrates to be stored in almost every cell in the body and progressively cause cellular damage;

Whereas the cellular damage caused by MPS—

(1) adversely affects the human body by damaging the heart, respiratory system, bones, internal organs, and central nervous system; and

(2) often results in intellectual disabilities, short stature, corneal damage, joint stiffness, loss of mobility, speech and hearing impairment, heart disease, hyperactivity, chronic respiratory problems, and, most importantly, a drastically shortened life span;

Whereas symptoms of MPS are usually not apparent at birth;

Whereas, without treatment, the life expectancy of an individual afflicted with MPS

begins to decrease at a very early stage in the life of the individual;

Whereas research has resulted in the development of limited treatments for some MPS diseases;

Whereas promising advancements in the pursuit of treatments for additional MPS diseases are underway as of the date of agreement to this resolution;

Whereas, despite the creation of new remedies, the blood-brain barrier continues to be a significant impediment to effectively treating the brain, which prevents the treatment of many of the symptoms of MPS;

Whereas the quality of life of the individuals afflicted with MPS, and the treatments available to those individuals, will be enhanced through the development of early detection techniques and early intervention;

Whereas treatments and research advancements for MPS are limited by a lack of awareness about MPS diseases;

Whereas the lack of awareness about MPS diseases extends to individuals within the medical community;

Whereas the cellular damage that is caused by MPS makes MPS a model for the study of many other degenerative genetic diseases; and

Whereas the development of effective therapies and a potential cure for MPS diseases can be accomplished by increased awareness, research, data collection, and information distribution: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 15, 2013, as "National MPS Awareness Day"; and

(2) supports the goals and ideals of "National MPS Awareness Day".

NOTICE OF HEARING

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs has scheduled a hearing entitled, "Offshore Profit Shifting and the U.S. Tax Code—Part 2." The Subcommittee will continue its examination of the structures and methods employed by multinational corporations to shift profits offshore and how such activities are affected by the Internal Revenue Code and related regulations. Witnesses will include representatives from the Department of the Treasury, the Internal Revenue Service, representatives of a multinational corporation, and tax experts. A witness list will be available Friday, May 17, 2013.

The Subcommittee hearing has been scheduled for Tuesday, May 21, 2013, at 9:30 a.m., in room 106 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. For further information, please contact Elise Bean of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations at (202) 224-9505.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on

May 15, 2013, at 2:30 p.m. in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building. The Committee will hold a hearing entitled, "The Road Ahead: Advanced Vehicle Technology and Its Implications."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 15, 2013, at 9 a.m., to hold a hearing entitled, "U.S. Policy Toward Iran."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 15, 2013, at 9:30 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "Performance Management and Congressional Oversight: 380 Recommendations to Reduce Overlap and Duplication to Make Washington More Efficient."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 15, 2013, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 15, 2013, in room SD-628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 15, 2013, at 10 a.m. in room SR-418 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND FINANCE

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Subcommittee on National Security and International Trade and Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 15, 2013, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Improving Cross Border Resolution to Better Protect Taxpayers and the Economy."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.