

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 1139. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the Hudson River Valley, New York; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 1140. A bill to extend the authorization of the Highlands Conservation Act through fiscal year 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. SCHUMER, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 1141. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the rehabilitation credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 162

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 162, a bill to reauthorize and improve the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act of 2004.

S. 195

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 195, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend projects relating to children and violence to provide access to school-based comprehensive mental health programs.

S. 325

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 325, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the maximum age for children eligible for medical care under the CHAMPVA program, and for other purposes.

S. 382

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 382, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to allow physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists to supervise cardiac, intensive cardiac, and pulmonary rehabilitation programs.

S. 557

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) 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. 559

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 559, a bill to establish a fund to make payments to the Americans held hostage in Iran, and to members of their families, who are identified as members of the proposed class in case number 1:08-CV-00487 (EGS) of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

S. 569

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 569, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to count a period of receipt of outpatient observation services in a hospital toward satisfying the 3-day inpatient hospital requirement for coverage of skilled nursing facility services under Medicare.

S. 602

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 602, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of physical therapists in the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program, and for other purposes.

S. 647

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 647, a bill to modify the prohibition on recognition by United States courts of certain rights relating to certain marks, trade names, or commercial names.

S. 650

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 650, a bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to preserve consumer and employer access to licensed independent insurance producers.

S. 699

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 699, a bill to reallocate Federal judgeships for the courts of appeals, and for other purposes.

S. 709

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 709, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, leading to better care and outcomes for Americans living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

S. 734

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 734, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation.

S. 777

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 777, a bill to restore the previous policy regarding restrictions on use of Department of Defense medical facilities.

S. 789

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) 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. UDALL of Colorado, 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. 842

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) were added as cosponsors 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 increased payments under the Medicare low-volume hospital program.

S. 865

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) 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. 896

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 896, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 908

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 908, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the diagnosis and treatment of hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia, and for other purposes.

S. 916

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 945

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 945, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to diabetes self-management training by authorizing certified diabetes educators to provide diabetes self-management training services, including as

part of telehealth services, under part B of the Medicare program.

S. 967

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 967, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to modify various authorities relating to procedures for courts-martial under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, and for other purposes.

S. 1028

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1028, a bill to reauthorize and improve the Older Americans Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

S. 1050

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1050, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to ensure the issuance of regulations applicable to the Coast Guard regarding consideration of a request for a permanent change of station or unit transfer submitted by a member of the Coast Guard who is the victim of a sexual assault.

S. 1059

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1059, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to deem any person who has received an award from the Armed Forces of the United States for engagement in active combat or active participation in combat to have satisfied certain requirements for naturalization.

S. 1096

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1096, a bill to establish an Office of Rural Education Policy in the Department of Education.

S. 1099

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1099, a bill to ensure that individuals do not simultaneously receive unemployment compensation and disability insurance benefits.

S. 1100

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1100, a bill to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to repeal a provision prohibiting Federal agencies from procuring alternative fuels.

S.J. RES. 11

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of

S.J. Res. 11, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to restore the rights of the American people that were taken away by the Supreme Court's decision in the Citizens United case and related decisions, to protect the integrity of our elections, and to limit the corrosive influence of money in our democratic process.

S. CON. RES. 15

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) 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. 75

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) 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.

S. RES. 151

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 151, a resolution urging the Government of Afghanistan to ensure transparent and credible presidential and provincial elections in April 2014 by adhering to internationally accepted democratic standards, establishing a transparent electoral process, and ensuring security for voters and candidates.

S. RES. 154

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 154, a resolution supporting political reform in Iran and for other purposes.

S. RES. 164

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 164, a resolution designating October 30, 2013, as a national day of remembrance for nuclear weapons program workers.

S. RES. 167

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 167, a resolution reaffirming the strong support of the United States for the peaceful resolution of territorial, sovereignty, and jurisdictional disputes in the Asia-Pacific maritime domains.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 1136. A bill to authorize the extension of preferential tariff treatment for certain textile goods imported from Nicaragua; to the Committee on Finance.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation to extend a critical textile and apparel trade program with Nicaragua, currently set to expire at the end of 2014 through the end of 2024.

This is a unique program which benefits not only Nicaraguan apparel factories and U.S. apparel companies and retailers, but U.S. fabric and yarn mills as well.

Let me explain.

In an effort to promote trade between the United States and Nicaragua, the 2006 Central American Free Trade Agreement, CAFTA, allows Nicaragua to export to the United States a limited amount of apparel products duty free regardless of the source of the yarn or fabric.

Specifically, this Tariff Preference Level, TPL, allows Nicaragua to export 100 million square meter equivalents, SMEs, of apparel made with fabric from non-CAFTA countries as long as the apparel is assembled in Nicaragua.

In order to ensure that U.S. fabric producers could also take advantage of this program, it contains a special rule for trousers.

It requires Nicaragua to purchase one square meter of U.S. fabric for every one square meter of non-CAFTA woven trouser fabric.

That is, under this "one for one" rule, for each export of woven trousers made from non-CAFTA fabric, Nicaragua agreed to export to the U.S. an equal amount of woven trousers made of U.S. fabric, up to a certain level 50 million square meter equivalents.

This "one for one" feature has been especially successful, resulting in an increase in U.S. fabric exports to Nicaragua and an increase in apparel production jobs in Central America.

In fact, since 2006, when the program went into effect, U.S. fabric exports to Nicaragua have nearly doubled from \$57.3 million to \$110.2 million.

Nicaragua is now the fastest growing market for U.S. fabric exports to the CAFTA region.

Nicaragua has also greatly benefited from this program.

I would remind my colleagues that Nicaragua, with a GDP per capita of \$3,300, is the poorest country in Central America and the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.

Approximately 42.5 percent of Nicaragua's population lives below the poverty line.

It is vital that Nicaragua develop and grow new export opportunities to help lift its people out of poverty. And that is what this program has done.

Since 2006, total apparel exports from Nicaragua to the U.S. have doubled. The program now accounts for 25 percent of those exports.

Between 2005 and 2013, jobs in the apparel sector in Nicaragua have grown