

6. Brothers and Spouses: None ever visited/lived in the USA.

7. Sisters and Spouses: None ever visited/lived in the USA.

\*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

## 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. BENNET (for himself and Mr. JOHANNIS):

S. 1216. A bill to improve and increase the availability of on-job training and apprenticeship programs carried out by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CORKER (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. JOHANNIS, Mr. TESTER, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. MORAN, and Mrs. HAGAN):

S. 1217. A bill to provide secondary mortgage market reform, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 1218. A bill to establish a State Energy Race to the Top Initiative to assist energy policy innovation in the States to promote the goal of doubling electric and thermal energy productivity by January 1, 2030; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 1219. A bill to authorize the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians Water Rights Settlement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 1220. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to preserve access to rehabilitation innovation centers under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 1221. A bill to rename section 219(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as the Kay Bailey Hutchison Spousal IRA; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. BAUCUS):

S. 1222. A bill to amend the small, rural school achievement program and the rural and low-income school program under part B of title VI of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

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

S. Res. 186. A resolution congratulating the Miami Heat for winning the 2013 National Basketball Association Finals; considered and agreed to.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 231

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 231, a bill to reauthorize the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp.

S. 462

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

S. 658

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 658, a bill to amend titles 10 and 32, United States Code, to enhance capabilities to prepare for and respond to cyber emergencies, and for other purposes.

S. 789

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) 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. 815

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) 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. 842

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) 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 increased payments under the Medicare low-volume hospital program.

S. 892

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) 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. 1069

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1069, a bill to prohibit discrimination in adoption or foster care placements based on the sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status of any prospective adoptive or foster parent, or the sexual orientation or gender identity of the child involved.

S. 1114

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1114, a bill to provide for identification of misaligned currency, require action to correct the misalignment, and for other purposes.

S. 1143

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1143, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to physician supervision of therapeutic hospital outpatient services.

S. 1158

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1158, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins commemorating the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the National Park Service, and for other purposes.

S. 1166

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1166, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to provide for appropriate designation of collective bargaining units.

S. 1183

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1183, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the estate and generation-skipping transfer taxes, and for other purposes.

S. 1192

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1192, a bill to implement common sense controls on the taxpayer-funded salaries of government contractors by limiting reimbursement for excessive compensation.

S. 1195

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1195, a bill to repeal the renewable fuel standard.

S. 1199

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1199, a bill to improve energy performance in Federal buildings, and for other purposes.

S. 1211

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1211, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the use of the phrases GI Bill and Post-9/11 GI Bill to give a false impression of approval or endorsement by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

S. 1212

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the name of the Senator from

Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1212, a bill to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to facilitate the establishment of additional or expanded public target ranges in certain States.

S. 1215

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1215, a bill to strengthen privacy protections, accountability, and oversight related to domestic surveillance conducted pursuant to the USA PATRIOT Act and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978.

S.J. RES. 15

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 15, a joint resolution removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment.

S. RES. 144

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 144, a resolution concerning the ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the need for international efforts supporting long-term peace, stability, and observance of human rights.

S. RES. 151

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) 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. 165

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 165, a resolution calling for the release from prison of former Prime Minister of Ukraine Yulia Tymoshenko in light of the recent European Court of Human Rights ruling.

S. RES. 167

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 1244

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) were added as cospon-

sors of amendment No. 1244 intended to be proposed to S. 744, a bill to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1328

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1328 intended to be proposed to S. 744, a bill to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1593

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1593 intended to be proposed to S. 744, a bill to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1618

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1618 intended to be proposed to S. 744, a bill to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. BAUCUS):

S. 1222. A bill to amend the small, rural school achievement program and the rural and low-income school program under part B of title VI of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation to extend and improve a program aimed at addressing the unique needs of rural schools. The Rural Education Achievement Program, or REAP, is designed to help level the playing field for small and high-poverty rural school systems. It is the only dedicated federal funding stream to aid rural school districts in overcoming certain challenges associated with geographic isolation.

Nearly  $\frac{1}{3}$  of America's public schools are in rural areas, and more than 21 percent of our public school students attend these schools. Students in rural America should have the same access to federal dollars and quality education as those students who attend schools in urban and suburban communities. For this reason, in 2001, I worked with former Senator Kent Conrad to author the law creating REAP, and I am now pleased to work with Senator MAX BAUCUS on its reauthorization. REAP created two grant programs: the Small and Rural Schools Achievement program SRSA, which provides additional funding and flexibility to small rural school districts, and the Rural and Low-Income School program, RLIS, which provides additional funding for poor rural school districts.

Prior to enactment of this law, rural school districts received funds based on

school enrollment. In many of these districts, Federal formula programs, which are population-based, do not produce enough resources to carry out important programs, which these grant programs help make possible. One school district in Maine, for example, received only \$28 in 2001 to fund a district-wide Safe and Drug-free school program.

In addition, small and rural school districts often forgo Federal education dollars because they lack the personnel and the resources to apply for competitive grants. Having fewer personnel also creates additional challenges in providing professional development opportunities. By allowing rural school districts to combine funds, as well as providing additional funds, REAP gives these districts the levels of resources required to undertake significant educational reform. Funds from this program have already helped to support new technology in classrooms, distance learning opportunities, and professional development activities, as well as a vast array of other programs that will help rural districts.

The REAP Reauthorization Act of 2013 would reauthorize and implement a few improvements to the law. These changes would allow Federal funds to be even more closely targeted to geographically isolated districts. One important reform would allow program eligible districts to participate in the Rural and Low-Income School program if they would not receive financial benefits from the Small and Rural Schools Achievement program.

Education is an essential driver for good jobs for our citizens. This rings true especially in rural America, where schools are the linchpin of rural communities. I am pleased to have the support of the Maine School Management Association for the REAP Reauthorization Act of chair of the Senate Rural Education Caucus, I will continue to work toward our goal of advancing the educational interests of rural schools and districts.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a letter of support be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MAINE SCHOOL  
MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION,  
Augusta, ME, June 24, 2013.

Re Reauthorization of REAP  
Hon. SUSAN COLLINS,  
Dirksen Senate Office Building,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR COLLINS, The Maine School Boards Association and the Maine School Superintendents Association want to thank you for your continued sponsorship of the REAP Program. Specifically, our Associations are pleased to support the 2013 Reauthorization of REAP. Throughout the years, REAP funding has helped to provide equity for many small schools in Maine and our expectation is that will continue with this Reauthorization.

Both the National School Boards Association and the American Association of School Administrators are also supportive of the Reauthorization of REAP.