

for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 312. A bill to adjust the boundary of the Carson National Forest, New Mexico; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. BURR, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. REED, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. COONS, Mr. JOHANNIS, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 313. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax treatment of ABLE accounts established under State programs for the care of family members with disabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG:

S. 314. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. NELSON):

S. 315. A bill to reauthorize and extend the Paul D. Wellstone Muscular Dystrophy Community Assistance, Research, and Education Amendments of 2008; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, and Mr. BROWN):

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; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. JOHANNIS (for himself and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 317. A bill to require the Inspector General of the Environmental Protection Agency to include certain assessments in reports; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. JOHANNIS:

S. 318. A bill to rescind funds made available to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency if the Administrator fails to meet certain deadlines; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. JOHANNIS:

S. 319. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to provide adequate data, modeling, and support in the development of a State implementation plan under the Clean Air Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. JOHANNIS (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. PAUL, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. COATS, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 320. A bill to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for congressional review of agency guidance documents; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr.

LEAHY, Mr. REED, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 321. A bill to reduce the deficit by imposing a minimum effective tax rate for high-income taxpayers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BEGICH, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 322. A bill to set the United States on track to ensure children are ready to learn when they begin kindergarten; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

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; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. HATCH, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. SESSIONS, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. ENZI, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BURR, Mr. COBURN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. VITTER, Mr. CORKER, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. WICKER, Mr. JOHANNIS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. KIRK, Mr. COATS, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. MORAN, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. PAUL, Mr. LEE, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. HELLER, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. CRUZ, and Mrs. FISCHER):

S.J. Res. 7. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to balancing the budget; 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 Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. COONS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. HAGAN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. NELSON, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. PRYOR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. COWAN, and Mr. REED):

S. Res. 31. A resolution celebrating Black History Month; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Ms. HEITKAMP):

S. Res. 32. A resolution congratulating the North Dakota State University football team for winning the 2012 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Football Championship Subdivision title; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. Res. 33. A resolution commemorating the 150th anniversary of Emporia State University; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. Res. 34. A resolution commemorating the 150th anniversary of Kansas State University; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 37

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 37, a bill to sustain the economic development and recreational use of National Forest System land and other public land in the State of Montana, to add certain land to the National Wilderness Preservation System, to release certain wilderness study areas, to designate new areas for recreation, and for other purposes.

S. 119

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 119, a bill to prohibit the application of certain restrictive eligibility requirements to foreign nongovernmental organizations with respect to the provision of assistance under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

S. 153

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 153, a bill to amend section 520J of the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants for mental health first aid training programs.

S. 169

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 169, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to authorize additional visas for well-educated aliens to live and work in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 183

At the request of Mrs. MCCASKILL, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 183, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for fairness in hospital payments under the Medicare program.

S. 210

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 210, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to fraudulent representations about having received military declarations or medals.

S. 234

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 234, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 264

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 264, a bill to expand access to community mental health centers and improve the quality of mental health care for all Americans.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. JOHANNIS, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 290. A bill to reduce housing-related health hazards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am introducing two bipartisan bills pertaining to healthy housing, the Healthy Housing Council Act and the Title X Amendments Act. These bills seek to improve federal coordination of healthy housing efforts and better integrate healthy housing activities into the ongoing lead poisoning prevention work at the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The presence of housing-related health hazards is often overlooked or is unable to be addressed, and yet these hazards are sometimes the cause of a variety of preventable diseases and conditions like cancer, lead poisoning, and asthma. While I have been working to address these hazards throughout my tenure in Congress, I was pleased that the Administration last week released its Strategy for Action to Advance Healthy Housing, a multi-department and agency effort to develop consensus-based criteria to address housing hazards that impact the health and habitation of children and families.

This new Strategy for Action calls on Federal agencies to address barriers and disincentives to the delivery of services to improve housing conditions, particularly among low-income families with young children; replicate successful local healthy housing programs on a larger scale; and conduct more research into cost-effective advances in healthy housing programming.

The Title X Amendments Act, S. 290, which I am introducing with Senators JOHANNIS, FRANKEN, and BOXER, and has been in the drafting stages for many months, responds to these calls for action. It would provide HUD with the necessary authority to continue to carry out healthy housing activities while protecting important ongoing lead remediation efforts, allow grantees to improve the conditions in zero-bedroom units, and streamline eligibility for assistance. These are simple, yet necessary reforms designed to improve and expand cost-effective services, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to see them enacted.

It is also vital that we continue the type of collaboration and coordination among Federal departments and agencies, like HUD, HHS, EPA, and CDC,

that resulted in the Strategy for Action to Advance Healthy Homes. Indeed, there are many programs fragmented across multiple agencies that are responsible for addressing housing-related health hazards like lead and radon, and we should strive to improve the efficiency and efficacy of these efforts by ensuring that these agencies continue to work together.

The Healthy Housing Council Act, S. 291, which Senator JOHANNIS, FRANKEN, and BOXER have also cosponsored, would establish an independent inter-agency Council on Healthy Housing in the executive branch in order to improve coordination, bring existing efforts out of their respective silos, and reduce duplication.

The bill calls for the council to convene periodic meetings with experts in the public and private sectors to discuss ways to educate individuals and families on how to recognize housing-related health hazards and access the necessary services and preventive measures to combat these hazards. The council would also be required to hold biannual stakeholder meetings, maintain an updated website, and work to unify healthy housing data collection and maintenance.

Our goal for these bills is to help reduce the more than 5.7 million households living in conditions with moderate or severe health hazards, 23 million additional homes with lead-based paint hazards, 14,000 unintentional injury and fire deaths every year that result from housing-related hazards, and 21,000 radon-associated lung cancer deaths every year. Indeed, these numbers contribute to increasing health care costs for individuals and families, as well as for federal, state, and local governments.

Promoting low-cost measures to eliminate subpar housing can make a dramatic and meaningful difference in the lives of children and families and help reduce health care costs. I urge our colleagues to join in supporting these bipartisan bills.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 296. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate discrimination in the immigration laws by permitting permanent partners of United States citizens and lawful permanent residents to obtain lawful permanent resident status in the same manner as spouses of citizens and lawful permanent residents and to penalize immigration fraud in connection with permanent partnerships; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today I am reintroducing the Uniting American Families Act, UFAA, which grants same-sex bi-national couples the same immigration benefits heterosexual couples have long enjoyed. This is the sixth Congress in which I have introduced this legislation, and I am proud

to be joined this year by Senator COLLINS, a strong champion for American families. She cosponsored this bill last Congress, and I thank her for her leadership as she joins me as an original cosponsor today.

Preserving family unity is central to our immigration policy. President Obama understands that, which is why I was so pleased to see that he included UFAA as a core tenet of the immigration principles he outlined last month.

Even as American attitudes are changing about the civil rights of gay and lesbian Americans, the so-called Defense of Marriage Act forces many Americans to choose between the country they love and being with the people they love. This destructive policy tears families apart and forces hardworking Americans to make the heart-wrenching choice no American should have to make. Families from Maine to California experience this hardship. In Vermont, I have seen firsthand the unfairness that couples have endured as a result of our current laws and have spoken at length on their struggles in this Chamber. I have heard from a number of Vermonters who have had to make the difficult decision to leave their work and homes in Vermont in order to be able to live with their spouses in more welcoming countries; some whole spouses are legally in the U.S. temporarily but worry daily when they will be required to leave the U.S.; and some who suffer the heartbreak of a long-distance marriage when their spouses are denied even a visitor visa to spend some time with their spouses in the U.S. The Senate Judiciary Committee heard directly from families like these as well.

Over the past decade, Americans have begun to reject the notion that U.S. citizens who are gay or lesbian should not have their committed relationships recognized by the law and the protections that provides. As of last month, the District of Columbia and nine states, including Connecticut, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Washington, and my home state of Vermont, have legalized same-sex marriage. At the end of the 111th Congress, bipartisan votes in both the Senate and the House reversed the Military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, a 17-year-old stricture that barred gay and lesbian service men and women from openly serving in the military. Consistent with the repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, just last week the Pentagon signaled that it will begin providing benefits to the same-sex spouses of military personnel. As they have many times in our past and will continue in the future, prevailing American attitudes are progressing toward fairness and justice. The Supreme Court is poised to decide the fate of the Defense of Marriage Act and whether that law, which deprives same-sex couples of over 1,000 Federal benefits and responsibilities, is consistent with our constitutional values.