

Many of the Marketplace plans will provide you with more generous coverage than your current Grandfathered Individual plan. We invite you to visit Vantage online at www.VantageHealthPlan.com/marketplace to review our Exchange plan offerings. You may also enroll online at www.Healthcare.gov, by calling (800) 318-2596 or by contacting your agent or broker.

In addition to the Exchange plan offerings, Vantage will have several new plan offerings available outside of the Exchange for 2014. These plans are similar to your current Freedom or High Deductible plan. We will have more information on those plan options later this Fall.

This is the letter thousands of people are receiving. This letter should have never gone out. We said to people that if they have insurance they like, they can keep it. We didn't say that if they have insurance they like that doesn't meet the standards or that meets the minimum standards, they can keep it. We said and the President said over and over that if people have insurance and they like the insurance they have, they can keep it. That is my bill. That is the single focus of my bill. It is not to undermine the Affordable Care Act; it is to strengthen it and to keep our promise to the millions of Americans to whom we said if they have insurance, they can keep what they have. If they don't, there is a new marketplace where they and their families can go and choose among a variety of different plans.

Depending on their income, they may have support from their community or from the government. If someone is extremely poor, we can provide options for them through Medicaid. It is not as desirable as through private insurance, but many Governors, including some Republican Governors, are being very creative with their Medicaid plans and actually changing them into more of a private-like insurance model. There is great flexibility in how Governors who have good hearts and good intentions are using their Medicaid dollars wisely.

Having said that, having reread the grandfather clause, having looked at it very closely, I have determined that this is the best course to introduce this bill, which I will do later this evening to actually file it. Again, it has two simple directives:

No. 1, all insurance companies shall continue to offer grandfather plans that were in effect prior to a certain date.

No. 2, every insurance company that provided those grandfather plans has to explain to those policyholders how their current plan falls short of the new standard on the market and what might be available to them that is better, but they are not forced to buy it.

So I hope we can debate this. Unlike many on the other side who want to tear the act down and repeal it, to defund it—they even took the whole Federal Government hostage and the whole economy of the United States hostage because of it—or that is what they tried to do. They failed, thank goodness, and the hostages have been released. The government is back up

and operating. There are some of us who are sincere about supporting the concepts of this bill, the promise of this bill, which is extraordinary and historic. We recognize there are some pieces of it that need to be fixed or tightened or tweaked to make sure it is going to work in the future as we have said.

Again, that is simply what my bill does. I am happy to introduce it. I have one cosponsor, Senator MANCHIN of West Virginia, but many others have expressed their interest in working with me, and I look forward to bringing this before the committee for full debate and hopefully to the Senate floor in some way in the near future for debate and hopefully for passage.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 1643. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a two-year extension of the Veterans' Advisory Committee on Education; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I rise to introduce bipartisan legislation to reauthorize the Veterans' Advisory Committee on Education, a panel that provides much needed assistance to our Nation's veterans by advising the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on existing VA education benefit programs, new education initiatives, and long-range education planning and development. This legislation is entitled the Veterans Advisory Committee on Education Improvement Act, and I wish to thank my colleague, Senator INHOFE, for joining me in this effort.

I am proud to introduce this companion bill to House-passed legislation which was introduced by Representatives JOHN DELANEY and JIM RENACCI and 12 other Members. This bill will reauthorize the Veterans' Advisory Committee on Education through December 31, 2015, and it expands the make-up of the Committee to include post 9/11 veterans. Absent Congressional action, the Advisory Committee's authority will sunset on December 31, 2013. In addition to preserving its traditional role, our bill will require the Advisory Committee to expand its reach to include veterans who served after September 11, 2001. Currently, the Committee only provides assistance for veterans who served through the Persian Gulf War. The Committee is particularly interested in ensuring that educational opportunities are available to eligible veterans and enabling them to readjust to civilian life and become members of a highly educated and productive work force. The Committee focuses on improving the benefits provided by the GI Bill.

I believe that a true marker of our Nation's worth is our willingness to serve those who have served us. As we continue to wind down our commitments in Iraq and Afghanistan after a decade of war, we need to gear up our commitment to our veterans. This legislation will ensure that the brave men

and women who serve our country in the armed services receive the most effective education and training opportunities available. I am proud of the support that organizations have provided in this effort. The Military Officers Association of America, MOAA, Students Veterans Association, SVA, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, IAVA, and Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW, have provided invaluable insight in crafting this

I am committed to making sure that our veterans receive the services and benefits they earned, and the support they were promised and deserve. The United States is the strongest nation in the world and we owe veterans our gratitude and our respect. This legislation is just a small token of how Congress can help veterans have all the tools they need, including education and job training, to ensure an easier transition to civilian life. By making sure that post 9/11 veterans have a voice at the VA this legislation encourages more effective and efficient government.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 1643

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Veterans' Advisory Committee on Education Improvement Act of 2013".

SEC. 2. TWO-YEAR EXTENSION OF VETERANS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

Section 3692 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

- (1) in subsection (a)—
 - (A) by inserting "31," after "30,"; and
 - (B) by striking "and the Persian Gulf War" and inserting "the Persian Gulf War, and the post-9/11 operations in Iraq and Afghanistan";
- (2) in subsection (b), by inserting "31," after "30,"; and
- (3) in subsection (c), by striking "December 31, 2013" and inserting "December 31, 2015".

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 285—AUTHORIZING THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION TO PREPARE A REVISED EDITION OF THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE AS A SENATE DOCUMENT

Mr. SCHUMER submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 285

Resolved,

SECTION 1. PRINTING THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE.

(a) AUTHORIZATIONS.—The Committee on Rules and Administration shall prepare a revised edition of the Standing Rules of the

Senate and such standing rules shall be printed as a Senate document.

(b) ADDITIONAL COPIES.—In addition to the usual number, 1,750 additional copies shall be printed for use by the Committee on Rules and Administration.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2010. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 287, to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the definition of homeless veteran for purposes of benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2011. Mr. McCONNELL (for himself and Mr. PAUL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 815, to prohibit the employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2010. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 287, to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the definition of homeless veteran for purposes of benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 11, strike line 25 and insert the following: homelessness pursuant to such partnerships.

“(f) SUNSET.—The authority of the Secretary to enter into partnerships under this section as described in subsection (a) shall expire on December 31, 2016.”

On page 13, strike lines 3 through 18 and insert the following:

SEC. 10. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR PROGRAM OF REFERRAL AND COUNSELING SERVICES FOR VETERANS AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS WHO ARE TRANSITIONING FROM CERTAIN INSTITUTIONS.

Section 2023 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (b);

(2) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “To the extent practicable, the program” and inserting “The program”;

(3) in subsection (d), by striking “September 30, 2014” and inserting “September 30, 2017”;

(4) in subsection (e)(2), by striking “provided under the demonstration program”;

and

(5) by redesignating subsections (c), (d), and (e) as subsections (b), (c), and (d), respectively.

On page 14, strike lines 2 through 14 and insert the following:

(a) TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION FOR SERIOUSLY MENTALLY ILL AND HOMELESS VETERANS.—Section 2031(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “December 31,

Beginning on page 14, strike line 24 and all that follows through page 15, line 7, and insert the following:

(f) TRAINING ENTITIES FOR PROVISION OF SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VERY LOW-INCOME VETERAN FAMILIES IN PERMANENT HOUSING.—Section 2044(e)(3) of such title is amended by striking “2012” and inserting “2014”.

On page 15, strike lines 8 through 12.

On page 16, line 7, strike “March 31, 2018” and insert “August 31, 2017”.

SA 2011. Mr. McCONNELL (for himself and Mr. PAUL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 815, to prohibit the employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 18. NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS ACT.—

(1) RIGHTS OF EMPLOYEES.—Section 7 of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 157) is amended by striking “except to” and all that follows through “authorized in section 8(a)(3)”.

(2) UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICES.—Section 8 of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 158) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(3), by striking “: Provided, That” and all that follows through “retaining membership”;

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (2), by striking “or to discriminate” and all that follows through “retaining membership”;

(ii) in paragraph (5), by striking “covered by an agreement authorized under subsection (a)(3) of this section”;

(C) in subsection (f), by striking clause (2) and redesignating clauses (3) and (4) as clauses (2) and (3), respectively.

(b) AMENDMENT TO THE RAILWAY LABOR ACT.—Section 2 of the Railway Labor Act (45 U.S.C. 152) is amended by striking paragraph Eleven.

(c) APPLICATION OF SEVERABILITY CLAUSE.—For purposes of section 16, any reference in such section to a provision of this Act includes an amendment made by subsection (a) or (b).

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section, and the amendments made by this section, shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Sergio Plaza and Warren Erickson of my staff be granted floor privileges for the duration of today's session and that Katrina Rogachevsky be granted floor privileges for the duration of this week.

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

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES— H.R. 3080

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I understand the Chair is ready to announce the conferees for H.R. 3080, the water resources bill.

The Presiding Officer appointed Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. BARRASSO conferees on the part of the Senate.

CRIMINAL ANTITRUST ANTI-RETALIATION ACT OF 2013

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 233, S. 42.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 42) to provide anti-retaliation protections for antitrust whistleblowers.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Criminal Antitrust Anti-Retaliation Act of 2013”.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO ACPERA.

The Antitrust Criminal Penalty Enhancement and Reform Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–237; 15 U.S.C. 1 note) is amended by adding after section 215 the following:

“SEC. 216. ANTI-RETALIATION PROTECTION FOR WHISTLEBLOWERS.

“(a) WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS FOR EMPLOYEES, CONTRACTORS, SUBCONTRACTORS, AND AGENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—No employer may discharge, demote, suspend, threaten, harass, or in any other manner discriminate against a covered individual in the terms and conditions of employment of the covered individual because—

“(A) the covered individual provided or caused to be provided to the employer or the Federal Government information relating to—

“(i) any violation of, or any act or omission the covered individual reasonably believes to be a violation of the antitrust laws; or

“(ii) any violation of, or any act or omission the covered individual reasonably believes to be a violation of another criminal law committed in conjunction with a potential violation of the antitrust laws or in conjunction with an investigation by the Department of Justice of a potential violation of the antitrust laws; or

“(B) the covered individual filed, caused to be filed, testified, participated in, or otherwise assisted an investigation or a proceeding filed or about to be filed (with any knowledge of the employer) relating to—

“(i) any violation of, or any act or omission the covered individual reasonably believes to be a violation of the antitrust laws; or

“(ii) any violation of, or any act or omission the covered individual reasonably believes to be a violation of another criminal law committed in conjunction with a potential violation of the antitrust laws or in conjunction with an investigation by the Department of Justice of a potential violation of the antitrust laws.

“(2) LIMITATION ON PROTECTIONS.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to any covered individual if—

“(A) the covered individual planned and initiated a violation or attempted violation of the antitrust laws;

“(B) the covered individual planned and initiated a violation or attempted violation of another criminal law in conjunction with a violation or attempted violation of the antitrust laws; or

“(C) the covered individual planned and initiated an obstruction or attempted obstruction of an investigation by the Department of Justice of a violation of the antitrust laws.

“(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(A) ANTITRUST LAWS.—The term ‘antitrust laws’ means section 1 or 3 of the Sherman Act (15 U.S.C. 1, 3).

“(B) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The term ‘covered individual’ means an employee, contractor, subcontractor, or agent of an employer.

“(C) EMPLOYER.—The term ‘employer’ means a person, or any officer, employee, contractor, subcontractor, or agent of such person.

“(D) PERSON.—The term ‘person’ has the same meaning as in subsection (a) of the first section of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. 12(a)).

“(4) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The term ‘violation’, with respect to the antitrust laws, shall not be construed to include a civil violation of any law that is not also a criminal violation.