

attention to rare diseases and directs the National Institutes of Health to facilitate greater collaboration among researchers;

Whereas both the Food and Drug Administration and the National Institutes of Health have established special offices to advocate for rare disease research and treatments;

Whereas the National Organization for Rare Disorders, an organization established in 1983 to provide services to and advocate on behalf of patients with rare diseases, remains a critical public voice for people with rare diseases;

Whereas 2013 marked the 30th anniversary of the Orphan Drug Act and the National Organization for Rare Disorders;

Whereas the National Organization for Rare Disorders sponsors Rare Disease Day in the United States to increase public awareness of rare diseases;

Whereas Rare Disease Day is observed each year on the last day of February;

Whereas Rare Disease Day is a global event, first observed in the United States on February 28, 2009, and observed in 60 countries in 2013; and

Whereas Rare Disease Day is expected to be observed globally for years to come, providing hope and information for rare disease patients around the world: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates February 28, 2014, as “Rare Disease Day”;

(2) recognizes the importance of improving awareness and encouraging accurate and early diagnosis of rare diseases and disorders; and

(3) supports a national and global commitment to improving access to, and developing new treatments, diagnostics, and cures for rare diseases and disorders.

#### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 33—CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENACTMENT OF THE SMITH-LEVER ACT, WHICH ESTABLISHED THE NATIONWIDE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM

Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. COCHRAN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:

S. CON. RES. 33

Whereas May 8, 2014, marks the centennial of the enactment of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 341 et seq.), which established the Cooperative Extension System, the nationwide transformative education system operating through land-grant colleges and universities (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)) in partnership with Federal, State, and local governments;

Whereas Senator Michael Hoke Smith of Georgia and Representative Asbury Francis Lever of South Carolina authored the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 341 et seq.) to bring the research-based knowledge of land-grant colleges and universities to individuals where the individuals live and work;

Whereas the first section of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 341) states that the purpose of the Act is “to aid in diffusing among the people of the United States useful and practical information on subjects relating to agriculture, uses of solar energy with respect to agriculture, home economics, and rural energy, and to encourage the application of the same” through extension work carried out by the land-grant colleges and universities;

Whereas cooperative extension work is a critical component of the three-part mission of the land-grant colleges and universities to work collaboratively with research institutions, in particular the State agriculture experiment stations and 106 colleges and universities, in each State of the United States, the District of Columbia, and each territory or possession of the United States, including—

(1) part B institutions (as defined in section 322 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061));

(2) 1994 Institutions (as defined in section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public Law 103-382)); and

(3) Hispanic-serving institutions (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103));

Whereas research-based education provided through the Cooperative Extension System to farmers and ranchers helped establish the United States as a leading agricultural-producing nation in the world;

Whereas, in 1924, the clover emblem was adopted by the Department of Agriculture to represent the 4-H Clubs through which the nationwide youth development program of the Cooperative Extension System is carried out;

Whereas, since 1924, 4-H Clubs have prepared millions of youth for responsible adulthood;

Whereas cooperative extension activities—

(1) prepare individuals for healthy, productive lives via sustained education, such as the nutrition education program established under section 1425 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3175);

(2) help to break the cycle of poverty; and

(3) reduce the expenditures of Federal and State assistance programs;

Whereas educational activities carried out under the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 341 et seq.) provide rapid response to disasters and emergencies, such as through the Extension Disaster Education Network and other similar efforts, by providing real-time alerts and resources so that educators can respond to urgent needs resulting from hurricanes, floods, oil spills, fire, drought, pest outbreaks, and infectious diseases affecting humans, livestock, and crops;

Whereas cooperative extension activities translate science-based research for practical application through local and online learning networks in which educators are uniquely available to identify emerging research questions, connect with land-grant college or university faculty to find answers, and encourage the application of the findings of that research to improve economic and social conditions;

Whereas cooperative extension activities engage with rural and urban learners through practical, community-based, and online approaches resulting in the acquisition of the knowledge, skills, and motivation necessary to strengthen the profitability of animal and plant production systems, protect natural resources, help individuals make healthy lifestyle choices, ensure a safe and abundant food supply, encourage community vitality, and grow the next generation of leaders; and

Whereas many States are celebrating the centennial of the enactment of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 341 et seq.) with resolutions and proclamations, and many land-grant colleges and universities are also commemorating the enactment of that historic Act: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring)*, That Congress—

(1) recognizes the significance of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 341 et seq.) to the

establishment of the Cooperative Extension System;

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe and celebrate the centennial with a focus on launching an innovative and sustainable future for the Cooperative Extension System;

(3) honors the university faculty and local educators who dedicate careers to providing trusted educational programs to help people, families, youth, businesses, and communities solve problems, develop skills, and build a better future;

(4) thanks the volunteers who provide thousands of hours to promote excellence for 4-H Clubs, the Master Gardeners program, the Family and Consumer Sciences program, and other programs of the Cooperative Extension System in their communities;

(5) encourages continued collaboration and cooperation among Federal, State, and local governments to ensure the sustainability of the Cooperative Extension System as the premiere nonformal educational network in the United States; and

(6) celebrates millions of youth, adults, families, farmers, ranchers, community leaders, and others who engage in cooperative extension learning opportunities designed to extend knowledge and change lives.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2780. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1982, to improve the provision of medical services and benefits to veterans, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2781. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1982, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2782. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1982, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2783. Mrs. MCCASKILL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1982, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2784. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1982, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2785. Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. JOHANNIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1982, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2786. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1982, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2787. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1982, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2788. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1982, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2789. Ms. KLOBUCHAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1982, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2790. Ms. KLOBUCHAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1982, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2791. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Ms. AYOTTE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1982, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2792. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her

to the bill S. 1982, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2793. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Ms. AYOTTE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1982, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2794. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1982, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2795. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1982, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2796. Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. JOHANNIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1982, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2797. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1982, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2798. Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MURPHY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1982, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2799. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1982, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2800. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1982, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2801. Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1982, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2802. Mr. BOOZMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1982, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2803. Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. MARKEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1982, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2804. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1982, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 2780.** Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1982, to improve the provision of medical services and benefits to veterans, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 207, between lines 8 and 9, insert the following:

#### **SEC. 446. PILOT PROGRAM ON TRAINING SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY VETERANS ON FEDERAL CONTRACTING.**

(a) **PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall commence a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of providing training to eligible small businesses on contracting with the Federal Government for the procurement of property or services.

(b) **ELIGIBLE SMALL BUSINESS.**—For purposes of this section, an eligible small business is a small business concern owned and controlled by veterans that—

(1) has operated for not fewer than two years;

(2) has not fewer than three full-time equivalent employees; and

(3) has experience providing a property or service to the Federal Government as a contractor or subcontractor.

(c) **DURATION.**—The pilot program required by subsection (a) shall be carried out during the five-year period beginning on the date of the commencement of the pilot program.

(d) **GRANTS REQUIRED.**—The Secretary shall carry out the pilot program required by subsection (a) through the award of one or more grants to one or more nonprofit organizations for the provision of instruction by professional service experts, government officials, and representatives of government agencies to eligible small businesses on contracting described in such subsection.

(e) **MATCHING REQUIREMENT.**—The Secretary may not make a grant to a nonprofit organization under this section unless the nonprofit organization agrees that, with respect to the costs to be incurred by the nonprofit organization in carrying out training for which the grant was awarded, the nonprofit organization will make available (directly or through donations from public or private entities) non-Federal contributions in an amount that is equal to or great than the amount of the grant awarded.

(f) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2014 and each fiscal year thereafter through fiscal year 2018.

(g) **SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY VETERANS DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “small business concern owned and controlled by veterans” has the meaning given such term in section 8127 of title 38, United States Code.

**SA 2781.** Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1982, to improve the provision of medical services and benefits to veterans, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 291, after line 21, add the following:

#### **Subtitle E—Disability Compensation Generally**

#### **SEC. 641. MAKING PERMANENT SPECIAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR AWARDS OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION FOR VETERANS WHO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS FOR ORIGINAL CLAIMS THAT ARE FULLY DEVELOPED.**

Section 5110(b)(2)(C) is amended by striking “and shall not apply with respect to claims filed after the date that is three years after the date of the enactment of such Act”.

#### **SEC. 642. PROVISIONAL BENEFITS AWARDED FOR FULLY DEVELOPED CLAIMS PENDING FOR MORE THAN 180 DAYS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 53 is amended by adding at the end the following:

#### **“§ 5319A. Provisional benefits awarded for fully developed claims pending for extended period**

“(a) **PROVISIONAL AWARDS REQUIRED.**—For each application for disability compensation that is filed for an individual with the Secretary, that sets forth an original claim that is fully-developed (as determined by the Secretary) as of the date of submittal, and for which the Secretary has not made a decision, beginning on the date that is 180 days after the date on which such application is filed with the Secretary, the Secretary shall award the individual a provisional benefit under this section.

“(b) **PROVISIONAL AWARDS ESTABLISHED.**—A provisional benefit awarded pursuant to subsection (a) for a claim for disability compensation shall be for such monthly amount as the Secretary shall establish for each classification of disability claimed as the Secretary shall establish.

“(c) **RECOVERY.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may recover a payment of a provisional benefit

awarded under this section for an application for disability compensation only—

“(1) in a case in which the Secretary awards the disability compensation for which the individual filed the application and the Secretary may only recover such provisional benefit by subtracting it from payments made for the disability compensation awarded; or

“(2) in a case in which the Secretary determines not to award the disability compensation for which the individual filed the application and the Secretary determines that the application was the subject of intentional fraud, misrepresentation, or bad faith on behalf of the individual.”.

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 53 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 5319 the following new item:

“5319A. Provisional benefits awarded for fully developed claims pending for extended period.”.

**SA 2782.** Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1982, to improve the provision of medical services and benefits to veterans, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 33, after line 18, add the following:

#### **SEC. 207. ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF VETERANS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.**

Section 3692 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, 2014” and inserting “December 31, 2015”.

**SA 2783.** Mrs. McCASKILL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1982, to improve the provision of medical services and benefits to veterans, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 367, after line 14, add the following:

#### **SEC. 918. TRAUMATIC SERVICEMEMBERS' GROUP LIFE INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR ADVERSE REACTIONS TO VACCINATIONS ADMINISTERED BY DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 1980A(b)(3) is amended—

(1) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting “(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Secretary”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(B) The Secretary shall not exclude under subparagraph (A) a qualifying loss experienced by a member as a result of an adverse reaction to a vaccination administered by the Department of Defense, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, for the purposes of military accession, training, or deployment.”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if included in the provisions of and amendments made by section 1032 of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief, 2005 (Public Law 109-13; 119 Stat. 257).