

members of the Ohio Congressional delegation, and to the news media of Ohio.

POM-207. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan memorializing the Congress of the United States and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to take a stronger role in investigating and eliminating delays in veterans' health care; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 300

Whereas, The men and women who serve our country deserve our utmost respect and appreciation. Many of them are injured in the line of duty and come home to face challenging physical disabilities and other health issues. These veterans need our continued support after they have left active service. All veterans are entitled to the best health care we can give them; and

Whereas, Several VA facilities have a backlog of patients waiting for colonoscopies or endoscopies, necessary procedures for diagnosing cancers of the colon and digestive tract. As many as 7,000 veterans have been on the backlog list, often waiting over a year while experiencing pain and other symptoms that could not be properly treated without proper diagnosis; and

Whereas, At least 19 veterans have died due to delays in commonly used medical screenings, such as colonoscopies. Although the backlog problem was uncovered as early as July of 2011, little progress has been made in increasing the numbers of veterans who receive the necessary medical procedures: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we memorialize the Congress of the United States and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to take a stronger role in investigating and eliminating delays in veterans' health care; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-208. A resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Butler, New Jersey, requesting the investment of additional funding to maintain highways and improve the transportation infrastructure in the State of New Jersey; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mrs. BOXER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 864. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to reauthorize technical assistance to small public water systems, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-142).

By Mrs. BOXER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with an amendment:

S. 970. A bill to amend the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 to reauthorize grants for and require applied water supply research regarding the water resources research and technology institutes established under the Act (Rept. No. 113-143).

By Mrs. BOXER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

H.R. 724. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to remove the requirement for dealer certification of new light-duty motor vehicles (Rept. No. 113-144).

H.R. 1206. A bill to grant the Secretary of the Interior permanent authority to authorize States to issue electronic duck stamps, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-145).

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. CARDIN (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 2189. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve and extend the deduction for new and existing energy-efficient commercial buildings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 2190. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow employers to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of the employer mandate under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. CHAMBLISS):

S. 2191. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high cost employer-sponsored health coverage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 2192. A bill to amend the National Alzheimer's Project Act to require the Director of the National Institutes of Health to prepare and submit, directly to the President for review and transmittal to Congress, an annual budget estimate (including an estimate of the number and type of personnel needs for the Institutes) for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to such an Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. PAUL):

S. 2193. A bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to provide increased protection for horses participating in shows, exhibitions, or sales, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. REED, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2194. A bill to improve the Federal Pell Grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 2195. A bill to deny admission to the United States to any representative to the United Nations who has engaged in espionage activities against the United States, poses a threat to United States national security interests, or has engaged in a ter-

rorist activity against the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 2196. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to limit the liability of health care professionals who volunteer to provide health care services in response to a disaster; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 2197. A bill to repeal certain requirements regarding newspaper advertising of Senate stationery contracts; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. REID, Mr. HELLER, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. DURBIN, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 2198. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to take actions to provide additional water supplies and disaster assistance to the State of California and other Western States due to drought, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Ms. MIKULSKI:

S. 2199. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes; read the first time.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. JOHANNIS, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. Res. 408. A resolution supporting the designation of April as "Parkinson's Awareness Month"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 104

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 104, a bill to provide for congressional approval of national monuments and restricts on the use of national monuments.

S. 289

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 289, a bill to extend the low-interest refinancing provisions under the Local Development Business Loan Program of the Small Business Administration.

S. 313

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 375

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr.

REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 375, a bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

S. 484

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 484, a bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act relating to lead-based paint renovation and remodeling activities.

S. 539

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 539, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to foster more effective implementation and coordination of clinical care for people with pre-diabetes and diabetes.

S. 635

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 635, a bill to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception to the annual written privacy notice requirement.

S. 945

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) 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. 1011

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1011, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and for other purposes.

S. 1116

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1116, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to equalize the exclusion from gross income of parking and transportation fringe benefits and to provide for a common cost-of-living adjustment, and for other purposes.

S. 1133

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1133, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the new markets tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 1150

At the request of Mr. KAINE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1150, a bill to posthumously award a congressional gold medal to Constance Baker Motley.

S. 1174

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Wyo-

ming (Mr. ENZI) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1174, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 65th Infantry Regiment, known as the Borinqueneers.

S. 1256

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1256, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to preserve the effectiveness of medically important antimicrobials used in the treatment of human and animal diseases.

S. 1349

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1349, a bill to enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, and for other purposes.

S. 1422

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1422, a bill to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 respecting the scoring of preventive health savings.

S. 1462

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1462, a bill to extend the positive train control system implementation deadline, and for other purposes.

S. 1690

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1690, a bill to reauthorize the Second Chance Act of 2007.

S. 1733

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1733, a bill to stop exploitation through trafficking.

S. 1737

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1737, a bill to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property.

S. 1738

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1738, a bill to provide justice for the victims of trafficking.

S. 1923

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1923, a bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to exempt from reg-

istration brokers performing services in connection with the transfer of ownership of smaller privately held companies.

S. 1982

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1982, a bill to improve the provision of medical services and benefits to veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 1999

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1999, a bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to require the consent of parties to contracts for the use of arbitration to resolve controversies arising under the contracts and subject to provisions of such Act and to preserve the rights of servicemembers to bring class actions under such Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2000

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2000, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate and improve Medicare payments for physicians and other professionals, and for other purposes.

S. 2004

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2004, a bill to ensure the safety of all users of the transportation system, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, children, older individuals, and individuals with disabilities, as they travel on and across federally funded streets and highways.

S. 2021

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2021, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the incentives for the production of biodiesel.

S. 2055

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2055, a bill to allow for the collection of certain user fees by non-Federal entities.

S. 2075

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2075, a bill to prohibit a reduction in funding for the defense commissary system in fiscal year 2015 pending the report of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission.

S. 2087

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Montana

(Mr. WALSH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2087, a bill to protect the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to reconciliation involving changes to the Medicare program.

S. 2103

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2103, a bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to issue or revise regulations with respect to the medical certification of certain small aircraft pilots, and for other purposes.

S. 2109

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2109, a bill to eliminate duplicative, outdated, or unnecessary Congressionally mandated Federal agency reporting.

S. 2163

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2163, a bill to establish an emergency watershed protection disaster assistance fund to be available to the Secretary of Agriculture to provide assistance for any natural disaster.

S. 2176

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2176, a bill to revise reporting requirements under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to preserve the privacy of individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 2178

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the names of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2178, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act with respect to the timing of elections and pre-election hearings and the identification of pre-election issues, and to require that lists of employees eligible to vote in organizing elections be provided to the National Labor Relations Board.

S. RES. 384

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 384, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate concerning the humanitarian crisis in Syria and neighboring countries, resulting humanitarian and development challenges, and the urgent need for a political solution to the crisis.

S. RES. 404

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 404, a resolution honoring the accomplishments and legacy of Cesar Estrada Chavez.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 2189. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve and extend the deduction for new and existing energy-efficient commercial buildings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I rise with my colleagues Senator FEINSTEIN and Senator SCHATZ to introduce the Energy Efficiency Tax Incentives Act.

Encouraging energy efficiency improvements is a smart and cost-effective way to reduce pollution, increase the competitiveness of our employers, and to create jobs in both our construction and manufacturing sectors.

As I have discussed previously on the floor of the Senate, our energy problem in this country can be primarily attributed to a waste problem. Recently, the Department of Energy calculated that we waste 57 percent of all energy produced.

Our goal in introducing this bill is to prevent that waste by providing focused incentives that encourage significant improvements in energy efficiency and truly innovative energy efficiency technologies.

While my colleagues will explain how the bill does this for our homes and the industrial sector, I would like to focus on how our bill improves energy efficiency outcomes for commercial and multifamily buildings.

About 40 percent of energy consumption in the United States comes from our buildings, and up to 80 percent of the buildings standing today will still be here in 2050. Encouraging efficiency in new construction, and making these existing buildings more efficient, would generate billions of dollars in energy savings, spur job creation, and reduce carbon emissions.

Until January 1, 2014, Section 179D of the Internal Revenue Code provided a tax deduction that allowed for cost recovery regarding energy efficient energy efficiency improvements to a building's lighting, HVAC, and envelope.

Typically, the cost of energy consumption is part of a business's expenses and thus immediately deductible. Section 179D was an important provision because it aligned the Internal Revenue Code to similarly incentivize energy savings through efficiency improvements. In terms of meeting our energy demands, some of the cheapest and cleanest energy we have is the energy we don't use because of these improvements.

Unfortunately, the 179D deduction expired at the end of 2013. As we move forward with tax extenders, it is critical that this provision be restored.

Our bill restores the 179D deduction by extending it through 2016. In addition, our bill makes commonsense reforms to that section.

We update the energy efficiency standards that must be met to qualify

for the 179D deduction, including by providing automatic standard updates for the years the deduction is available. We want to be sure that this incentive is going to technologies that meet truly efficient standards.

We also make the deduction more accessible to all real estate owners and those involved in implementing energy efficiency improvements, including through updated partial deduction standards and allocation provisions.

Finally, the bill recognizes that, in the same way we encourage new construction to meet these standards, we should encourage energy efficiency retrofits.

Our current tax policies do not yet provide an effective incentive for retrofitting our existing building stock. For example, the Empire State Building retrofit project, which will reduce that building's energy consumption by 40 percent, did not qualify for a section 179D deduction under its current structure.

Our bill would provide a deduction for retrofits of existing commercial and multifamily buildings to further encourage retrofit projects. Like section 179D, the deduction would be performance-based to encourage ambitious improvements and make the credit more accessible to building owners.

Before turning to my colleagues, I would like to reiterate that America's energy and economic future requires a focus on these energy incentives. Initiatives like our bill are needed not only to generate jobs, and savings for businesses and taxpayers, but also to improve our environment and make our nation more energy secure.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. 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. 2189

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; AMENDMENT OF 1986 CODE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Energy Efficiency Tax Incentives Act”.

(b) AMENDMENT OF 1986 CODE.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(c) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; amendment of 1986 Code; table of contents.

TITLE I—COMMERCIAL BUILDING MODERNIZATION

Sec. 101. Extension and modification of deduction for energy-efficient commercial buildings.

Sec. 102. Deduction for retrofits of existing commercial and multifamily buildings.

TITLE II—HOME ENERGY IMPROVEMENTS

Sec. 201. Performance based home energy improvements.