

By Mr. RISCH:

S. 2335. A bill to exempt certain 16 and 17 year-old children employed in logging or mechanized operations from child labor laws; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 2336. A bill to eliminate the payroll tax for individuals who have attained retirement age, to amend title II of the Social Security Act to remove the limitation upon the amount of outside income which an individual may earn while receiving benefits under such title, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. PRYOR):

S. 2337. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to inter in national cemeteries individuals who supported the United States in Laos during the Vietnam War era; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Mr. THUNE):

S. 2338. A bill to reauthorize the United States Anti-Doping Agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. ENZI, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. COBURN, and Mr. CHAMBLISS):

S. 2339. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to require States with failed American Health Benefit Exchanges to reimburse the Federal Government for amounts provided under grants for the establishment and operation of such Exchanges; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 2340. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require the Secretary to provide for the use of data from the second preceding tax year to carry out the simplification of applications for the estimation and determination of financial aid eligibility, to increase the income threshold to qualify for zero expected family contribution, and for other purposes; 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 Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. Res. 445. A resolution recognizing the importance of cancer research and the contributions of scientists, clinicians, and patient advocates across the United States who are dedicated to finding a cure for cancer, and designating May 2014 as "National Cancer Research Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 162

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 162, a bill to reauthorize and improve the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act of 2004.

S. 357

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 357, a bill to encourage, enhance, and integrate Blue Alert plans throughout the United States in order to disseminate information when a law enforcement officer is seriously injured or killed in the line of duty.

S. 411

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 411, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 429

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 429, a bill to enable concrete masonry products manufacturers to establish, finance, and carry out a coordinated program of research, education, and promotion to improve, maintain, and develop markets for concrete masonry products.

S. 539

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) 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. 1181

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1181, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt certain stock of real estate investment trusts from the tax on foreign investments in United States real property interests, and for other purposes.

S. 1445

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1445, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of optometrists in the National Health Service Corps scholarship and loan repayment programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1622

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1622, a bill to establish the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and for other purposes.

S. 1675

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1675, a bill to reduce recidivism and increase public safety, and for other purposes.

S. 1695

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) were

added as cosponsors of S. 1695, a bill to designate a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.

S. 1803

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1803, a bill to require certain protections for student loan borrowers, and for other purposes.

S. 1908

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1908, a bill to allow reciprocity for the carrying of certain concealed firearms.

S. 1948

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1948, a bill to promote the academic achievement of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children with the establishment of a Native American language grant program.

S. 1957

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1957, a bill to establish the American Infrastructure Fund, to provide bond guarantees and make loans to States, local governments, and infrastructure providers for investments in certain infrastructure projects, and to provide equity investments in such projects, and for other purposes.

S. 2004

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor 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. 2013

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2013, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the removal of Senior Executive Service employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs for performance, and for other purposes.

S. 2082

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2082, a bill to provide for the development of criteria under the Medicare program for medically necessary short inpatient hospital stays, and for other purposes.

S. 2091

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2091, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the processing by the Department of Veterans Affairs of claims for benefits

under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2292

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2292, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes.

S. 2295

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2295, a bill to establish the National Commission on the Future of the Army, and for other purposes.

S. 2299

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2299, a bill to amend the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to reauthorize a provision to ensure the survival and continuing vitality of Native American languages.

S. 2302

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2302, a bill to provide for a 1-year extension of the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa Program, and for other purposes.

S. 2316

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2316, a bill to require the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs to submit a report on wait times for veterans seeking medical appointments and treatment from the Department of Veterans Affairs, to prohibit closure of medical facilities of the Department, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3059

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3059 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3474, 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 3062

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3062 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3474, 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 3064

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3064 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3474, 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.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. RISCH:

S. 2335. A bill to exempt certain 16- and 17-year-old children employed in logging or mechanized operations from child labor laws; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, Senator CRAPO and I would like to introduce the Youth Careers in Logging Act. Small family logging companies, much like family farms, rely on younger family members to help make their companies successful. The agriculture industry enjoys exemptions from child labor laws to allow for family members to learn the trade and carry on the family business. This bill will provide those same benefits for the logging industry.

The logging industry is struggling to recruit young employees. This industry, like many others, has an aging work force that will soon retire. Modern mechanized machinery opens up opportunities for a new tech-savvy generation of loggers if we give them the chance.

There are 400 independent logging contractor businesses in Idaho, most of which are family owned and operated. Current labor laws do not allow the children of these family owned businesses to work and learn in the same profession as their parents.

Should the Youth Careers in Logging Act be enacted, starting at the age of 16 young adults will be allowed to operate safe and modern machinery. These young loggers will help Idaho and the country to create healthy, fire resilient forests and bring much needed natural resources into our marketplace to help make paper and build homes.

By passing this legislation, Congress can help young adults earn good wages through hard work in the great outdoors that will create a generation of young Americans that understand the value of a great work ethic.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. PRYOR):

S. 2337. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to inter in national cemeteries individuals who supported the United States in Laos during the Vietnam War era; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President I have come to the floor today to reintroduce a piece of legislation that I feel is long overdue. The Hmong Veterans' Service Recognition Act is a bill to authorize the interment in national cemeteries of Hmong veterans who served in support of U.S. forces during the Vietnam War. Thousands of members of the Hmong community fought for America during Vietnam yet they enjoy no rights as veterans. The Hmong veterans are requesting to be buried in national cemeteries and I, along with a bipartisan group of colleagues, Senators FRANKEN, KLOBUCHAR, FEINSTEIN, BEGICH, WHITEHOUSE, and PRYOR, believe this is an appropriate honor.

To preserve Laos's neutrality during the Vietnam War, the U.S., Soviet Union, North Vietnam, and ten other countries signed the 1962 Geneva Declaration prohibiting all foreign military personnel from Laos. While the U.S. and other countries withdrew all military personnel, the North Vietnamese Army blatantly violated the Geneva Declaration by keeping thousands of troops in Laos. Using Laotian territory to circumvent borders, these NVA forces posed a direct threat to America's military position in South Vietnam. Unable to be present in Laos, but needing to counteract the NVA, America required a covert military force. The Hmong were ideal candidates for America's secret war—they were renowned as being brave fighters who knew the rocky mountain terrain of Northern Laos well.

All told, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency conducted covert operations in Laos which employed some 60,000 Hmong volunteers in Special Guerilla Units. The Hmong Fighters interrupted operations on the Ho Chi Minh trail and assisted in downed aircraft recovery operations of American Airmen. In Laos, they valiantly fought the Vietnamese and Laotian Communists for over a decade and were critical to America's war efforts in Vietnam. In all, over 35,000 Hmong lost their lives by the end of our involvement in Vietnam.

Since the end of the Vietnam War, thousands of Hmong and Lao families have resettled around the United States to become legal permanent residents or United States citizens and have greatly contributed to American society. There are currently over 260,000 Hmong people in America. According to the 2010 Census, the heaviest concentrations are in California, Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Carolina, Michigan, Colorado, Georgia, Oklahoma, Oregon, and my home State of Alaska.

Of the Hmong who became U.S. citizens, approximately 6,000 veterans are