

and to prohibit push-polling; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. TOOMEY:

S. 2958. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the employer wage credit for employees who are active duty members of the Uniformed Services; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 2959. A bill to ensure that claims for benefits under the Black Lung Benefits Act are processed in a fair and timely manner, to protect miners from pneumoconiosis (commonly known as "black lung disease"), and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. FRANKEN, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2960. A bill to provide for rental assistance for homeless or at-risk Indian veterans; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. BEGICH:

S. 2961. A bill to establish the Office of Planning for Future Intercity Transportation within the Office of the Secretary of Transportation; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. TOOMEY:

S. 2962. A bill to repeal the tax increase imposed by Obamacare on taxpayers who incur catastrophic medical expenses; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. NELSON, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 2963. A bill to remove a limitation on a prohibition relating to permits for discharges incidental to normal operation of vessels; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SCHUMER, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 2964. A bill to extend the trade adjustment assistance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 2965. A bill to provide that members of the Armed Forces performing hazardous humanitarian services in West Africa to combat the spread of the 2014 Ebola virus outbreak shall be entitled to tax benefits in the same manner as if such services were performed in a combat zone; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 2966. A bill to improve the understanding and coordination of critical care health services; to the Committee on Finance.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. Res. 585. A resolution designating December 3, 2014, as "National Phenylketonuria Awareness Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr.

RUBIO, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. COONS, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. Res. 586. A resolution calling on the Government of Burma to develop a non-discriminatory and comprehensive solution that addresses Rakhine State's needs for peace, security, harmony, and development under equitable and just application of the rule of law, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. Res. 587. A resolution encouraging reunions of Korean-Americans who were divided by the Korean War from their relatives in North Korea; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. THUNE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. HELLER, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. TESTER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FRANKEN, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. Res. 588. A resolution recognizing that access to hospitals and other health care providers for patients in rural areas of the United States is essential to the survival and success of communities in the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mr. MARKEY):

S. Res. 589. A resolution honoring the life of Thomas M. Menino, Mayor of Boston, Massachusetts, from 1993 to 2014; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. WALSH, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. THUNE, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. INHOFE, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. REID):

S. Res. 590. A resolution recognizing National Native American Heritage Month and celebrating the heritages and cultures of Native Americans and the contributions of Native Americans to the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. REID (for Mrs. HAGAN (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. LEVIN)):

S. Res. 591. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of American Education Week; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 526

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 526, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions, and for other purposes.

S. 666

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. McCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 666, a bill to prohibit attendance of an animal fighting venture, and for other purposes.

S. 838

At the request of Mrs. McCASKILL, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 838, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to protect employees in the building and construction industry who are participants in multiemployer plans, and for other purposes.

S. 1011

At the request of Mr. JOHANNES, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors 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. 1040

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1040, a bill to provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Jack Nicklaus, in recognition of his service to the Nation in promoting excellence, good sportsmanship, and philanthropy.

S. 1249

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1249, a bill to rename the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking of the Department of State the Bureau to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and to provide for an Assistant Secretary to head such Bureau, and for other purposes.

S. 1361

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1361, a bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to accept additional documentation when considering the application for veterans status of an individual who performed service as a coastwise merchant seaman during World War II, and for other purposes.

S. 1674

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1674, a bill to help establish, enhance, and increase access to early childhood parent education and family engagement programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1815

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1815, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to include occupational therapists as behavioral and mental health professionals for purposes of the National Health Service Corps.

S. 2047

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2047, a bill to prohibit the marketing of electronic cigarettes to children, and for other purposes.

S. 2288

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2288, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand existing tax credits to encourage the capture, utilization, and sequestration of carbon dioxide.

S. 2301

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2301, a bill to amend section 2259 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 2348

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2348, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive coinsurance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening.

S. 2434

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2434, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that working families have access to affordable health insurance coverage.

S. 2520

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNES), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2520, a bill to improve the Freedom of Information Act.

S. 2591

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2591, a bill to authorize the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to provide assistance to support the rights of women and girls in developing countries, and for other purposes.

S. 2621

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2621, a bill to amend the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act to increase the price of Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps to fund the acquisition of conservation easements for migratory birds, and for other purposes.

S. 2685

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2685, a bill to reform the authori-

ties of the Federal Government to require the production of certain business records, conduct electronic surveillance, use pen registers and trap and trace devices, and use other forms of information gathering for foreign intelligence, counterterrorism, and criminal purposes, and for other purposes.

S. 2732

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2732, a bill to increase from \$10,000,000,000 to \$50,000,000,000 the threshold figure at which regulated depository institutions are subject to direct examination and reporting requirements of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and for other purposes.

S. 2746

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2746, 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.

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2746, *supra*.

S. 2828

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2828, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation, to provide additional assistance to Ukraine, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2828, *supra*.

S. 2848

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2848, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, with respect to apportionments under the Airport Improvement Program, and for other purposes.

S. 2874

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2874, a bill to amend the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 to eliminate the use of valid court orders to secure lockup of status offenders, and for other purposes.

S. 2920

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2920, a bill to deny Social Security benefits and other benefits to individuals who participated in Nazi persecution.

S. 2930

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr.

DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2930, a bill to direct the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for the conduct of an evaluation of mental health care and suicide prevention programs of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, to require a pilot program on loan repayment for psychiatrists who agree to serve in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2943

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 2943, a bill to amend Public Law 110-299 to extend the time period during which permits are not required for certain discharges incidental to the normal operation of vessels.

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2943, *supra*.

S. 2944

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of S. 2944, a bill to amend the Social Security Act to provide for the termination of social security benefits for individuals who participated in Nazi persecution, and for other purposes.

S. 2945

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2945, a bill to repeal section 910 of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013.

S. RES. 26

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 26, a resolution recognizing that access to hospitals and other health care providers for patients in rural areas of the United States is essential to the survival and success of communities in the United States.

S. RES. 565

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 565, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the President and the Secretary of State should ensure that the Canadian Government does not permanently store nuclear waste in the Great Lakes Basin.

S. RES. 580

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 580, a resolution expressing support for the goals of National Adoption

Day and National Adoption Month by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children awaiting families, celebrating children and families involved in adoption, and encouraging the people of the United States to secure safety, permanency, and well-being for all children.

S. RES. 583

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 583, a resolution designating November 30, 2014, as "Drive Safer Sunday".

AMENDMENT NO. 3749

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3749 intended to be proposed to S. 2410, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3870

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3870 intended to be proposed to S. 2410, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3947

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3947 intended to be proposed to S. 2685, a bill to reform the authorities of the Federal Government to require the production of certain business records, conduct electronic surveillance, use pen registers and trap and trace devices, and use other forms of information gathering for foreign intelligence, counterterrorism, and criminal purposes, and for other purposes.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 2954. A bill to improve the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I am proud to introduce my comprehensive proposal to reauthorize the Higher Education Act, the main law governing institutions of higher education in this country. My bill, the Higher Education Affordability Act, is the product of extensive conversations between both parties in Congress and stakeholders across the higher education commu-

nity. Over the past year, our Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee has held 12 bipartisan hearings on reauthorizing the Higher Education Act on issues ranging from teacher preparation and accreditation to federal student loans and the States' role in higher education. These hearings were purposely designed to better inform members of Congress and the public on the most pressing issues in higher education and how best to address them at the federal level.

In June, I put forward a discussion draft that included many of the ideas and policies discussed in our hearings. I asked the entire higher education community—including institutions, accreditors, and student advocacy organizations—to weigh in and offer suggestions on how best to strengthen my initial proposal.

I am pleased to say they delivered abundantly on that request. We received comments from over 120 organizations from across the country. What I have put forward today is a direct result of our hearings and the feedback we received. This bill provides clear guidelines based on all the work we have done to date on how we should move forward with reauthorization in a way that puts students and families first. It takes a holistic approach in addressing the most urgent issues in higher education: increasing college affordability, helping struggling borrowers, strengthening accountability, and improving transparency throughout the higher education system.

On the matter of affordability, my bill includes a number of policies designed to reduce college costs for students on the front end. It proposes a new federal partnership with States to incentivize them to reinvest in their systems of higher education. For too long, States have been cutting funding for their institutions of higher education and passing those costs onto students and their families. This is a trend in cost-shifting that must stop. The bill also reinstates year-round Pell Grants to enable students to get their degrees faster and establishes a pilot program to reward institutions that do a good job of graduating low-income students. My bill also creates two grant programs to promote statewide and institutional innovation in higher education. Making sure college is affordable requires an all-hands-on-deck approach: the Federal government, states, students and their families all need to do their part.

We also hope to empower students and families through greater transparency by giving students and families better information on college costs and outcomes from the beginning of the college selection process and all the way through graduation. The bill promotes a seamless process from high school to post-graduation to ensure that students know exactly what they are getting into with regard to college quality and costs before they get started.

On the matter of student debt, my bill takes a range of steps to help student borrowers better manage their loans. It provides for better up-front and exit counseling for students regarding their federally guaranteed loans. It eliminates fees on federal loans to save students money. My bill also strengthens consumer protections for student loans, and it creates a safety net for borrowers who are seriously delinquent on their loans by automatically enrolling them in an income-based repayment plan with affordable monthly payments. To ensure that private student debt is treated no differently than any other consumer debt, my bill would allow private student loans to be discharged in bankruptcy, as they were before the law was changed in 2005.

My bill would hold schools more accountable to both students and taxpayers by ensuring that no Federal money goes to marketing and advertising instead of education. I am also introducing new metrics, including a repayment rate, by which to better measure schools' performance. The bill also changes the current "90/10" rule to "85/15" to ensure that for-profit schools are not wholly subsidized by the Federal government. For those bad actors making record-breaking profits through fraud and abuse of taxpayer dollars, my bill includes a number of provisions designed to penalize this behavior and to stop it.

Our country has reached a critical point in higher education. Beyond disagreements on specific policy issues, we must come together to decide whether higher education should be preserved, first and foremost, as a public good. Over the past two decades, rising college costs have been shifted unfairly onto the backs of students and families. The central question we must ask is whether this accelerating trend is the right direction for this country—whether paying for college should be the sole responsibility of students and families or our shared responsibility as a nation. My bill reflects the overall belief that all stakeholders—states, the Federal Government, students and families—should invest together in higher education to keep college affordable and accessible to all. Our country's economic future and the promise of equal opportunity depend upon this critical investment.

It is unacceptable to ask students and their families to shoulder the bulk of college costs. Historically, this has never been the case, and we should not allow this unfortunate trend to grow worse. My bill would get us back on the right track, ensuring that our higher education system is affordable, transparent, and ultimately accountable to our students and taxpayers. Higher education should serve as an equalizer of opportunity for all, and that is a promise that we must fulfill together.

By Mr. NELSON (for himself, Mr. DONNELLY, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. BOOKER):