

Nancy J. Rosenstengel, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Illinois.

John P. Carlin, of New York, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

Debo P. Adegbile, of New York, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

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. BAUCUS:

S. 1997. A bill to authorize the Dry-Redwater Regional Water Authority System; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 1998. A bill to amend the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act to reserve funds for American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and Tribal College or University adult education and literacy; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. REED):

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; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. HATCH):

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; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 2001. A bill to require that textile and apparel articles acquired for use by executive agencies be manufactured from articles, materials, or supplies entirely grown, produced, or manufactured in the United States; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PRYOR (for himself and Mr. ENZI):

S. 2002. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to conduct a motor and motor-driven systems market assessment and public awareness program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. HELLER):

S. 2003. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the energy credit for certain property under construction; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BEGICH (for himself and Mr. SCHATZ):

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 fed-

erally funded streets and highways; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. 2005. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the reporting of certain hospital payment data under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 2006. A bill to provide for the establishment of a National Rare Earth Refinery Cooperative, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. LEE, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. ENZI):

S. Res. 345. A resolution strongly supporting the restoration and protection of State authority and flexibility in establishing and defining challenging student academic standards and assessments, and strongly denouncing the President's coercion of States into adopting the Common Core State Standards by conferring preferences in Federal grants and flexibility waivers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. Res. 346. A resolution congratulating the athletes from the State of Washington and across the United States who are set to participate in the 2014 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games in Sochi, Russia; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. LEE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. PAUL, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BEGICH, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 347. A resolution providing for completion of the accelerated transition of United States combat and military and security operations to the Government of Afghanistan; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BURR (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. Res. 348. A resolution expressing support for the internal rebuilding, resettlement, and reconciliation within Sri Lanka that are necessary to ensure a lasting peace; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. Res. 349. A resolution celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Walla Walla Valley American Viticultural Area; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. Res. 350. A resolution designating February 14, 2014, as National Solidarity Day for Compassionate Patient Care; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mr. BARASSO):

S. Res. 351. A resolution requiring that legislation considered by the Senate be confined to a single issue; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BENNET, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. Res. 352. A resolution commemorating the success of Team USA in the past 22 Olympic Winter Games and supporting Team USA in the 2014 Olympic Winter Games and Paralympic Winter Games; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 257

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 257, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require courses of education provided by public institutions of higher education that are approved for purposes of the educational assistance programs administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to charge veterans tuition and fees at the in-State tuition rate, and for other purposes.

S. 279

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 279, a bill to promote the development of renewable energy on public land, and for other purposes.

S. 409

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 409, a bill to add Vietnam Veterans Day as a patriotic and national observance.

S. 946

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 946, a bill to prohibit taxpayer funded abortions, and for other purposes.

S. 1061

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1061, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to designate certain medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs as health professional shortage areas, and for other purposes.

S. 1174

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1174, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 65th Infantry Regiment, known as the Borinqueneers.

S. 1249

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) 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. 1362

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1362, a bill to amend the National Child Protection Act of 1993 to establish a permanent background check system.

S. 1369

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. McCASKILL), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 1369, a bill to provide additional flexibility to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System to establish capital standards that are properly tailored to the unique characteristics of the business of insurance, and for other purposes.

S. 1391

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1391, a bill to amend the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 and other laws to clarify appropriate standards for Federal employment discrimination and retaliation claims, and for other purposes.

S. 1431

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1431, a bill to permanently extend the Internet Tax Freedom Act.

S. 1456

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1456, a bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Shimon Peres.

S. 1507

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1507, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the treatment of general welfare benefits provided by Indian tribes.

S. 1587

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1587, a bill to posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal to each of Glen Doherty and Tyrone Woods in recognition of their contributions to the Nation.

S. 1645

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1645, a bill to limit the authority of States to tax certain income of employees for employment duties performed in other States.

S. 1688

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1688, a bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), collectively, in recognition of their superior service and major contributions during World War II.

S. 1702

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr.

JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1702, a bill to empower States with authority for most taxing and spending for highway programs and mass transit programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1737

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, her name was added as a cosponsor 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. 1799

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1799, a bill to reauthorize subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990.

S. 1826

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1826, a bill to provide predictability and certainty in the tax law, create jobs, and encourage investment.

S. 1845

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1845, a bill to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes.

S. 1856

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1856, a bill to repeal section 403 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013, relating to an annual adjustment of retired pay for members of the Armed Forces under the age of 62.

S. 1895

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1895, a bill to establish a commission to examine the United States monetary policy, evaluate alternative monetary regimes, and recommend a course for monetary policy going forward.

S. 1902

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1902, a bill to require notification of individuals of breaches of personally identifiable information through Exchanges under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. 1925

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1925, a bill to limit the retrieval of data from vehicle event data recorders.

S. 1933

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S.

1933, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to foreign persons responsible for gross violations of internationally recognized human rights, and for other purposes.

S. 1963

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1963, a bill to repeal section 403 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013.

S. 1966

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1966, a bill to provide for the restoration of the economic and ecological health of National Forest System land and rural communities, and for other purposes.

S. 1979

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1979, a bill to provide for USA Retirement Funds, to reform the pension system, and for other purposes.

S. 1982

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1982, a bill to improve the provision of medical services and benefits to veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 1984

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1984, a bill to enhance penalties for computer crimes, and for other purposes.

S. 1991

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1991, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals a deduction for amounts contributed to disaster savings accounts to help defray the cost of preparing their homes to withstand a disaster and to repair or replace property damaged or destroyed in a disaster.

S. RES. 270

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 270, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of World Polio Day and commending the international community and others for their efforts to prevent and eradicate polio.

S. RES. 333

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator

from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNIS) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 333, a resolution strongly recommending that the United States renegotiate the return of the Iraqi Jewish Archive to Iraq.

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 333, *supra*.

AMENDMENT NO. 2603

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2603 intended to be proposed to S. 1845, a bill to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2712

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2712 intended to be proposed to S. 1845, a bill to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. REED):

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; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, our Nation has a strong tradition of ensuring that our service members are protected while they serve To keep us safe. As the challenges facing our service members change, we must work to ensure that our laws continue to keep pace. In this regard, I have worked with my colleagues over the years to strengthen the protections for service members and their families under the Servicemember Civil Relief Act, SCRA.

One such effort, the Servicemember Housing Protection Act, which I authored and was recently reported out of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, would enhance protections relating to the housing needs of our service members. I am pleased that these provisions have also been included in legislation the Senate will hopefully soon take up, Senator SANDERS's Comprehensive Veterans Health and Benefits and Military Retirement Pay Restoration Act, which I have cosponsored. I urge my colleagues to support this critical legislation.

Today, I am joining Senator GRAHAM in introducing on a bipartisan basis legislation to further enhance SCRA protections. The SCRA Rights Protec-

tion Act seeks to protect service members from being forced to accept mandatory arbitration clauses as part of everyday transactions, such as those relating to mortgage origination, automobile leases, and student loans. Often service members sign contracts that include arbitration clauses buried in the fine print, and this eliminates their access to the courts, which can limit their ability to assert their rights and reach a fair resolution. In disputes involving SCRA rights, this bill would make arbitration clauses unenforceable unless all parties consent to arbitration after the dispute arises, and would also ensure that service members retain their right to join with other service members to file a case together as a class.

I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting these improvements to the SCRA that will better protect our military families while the men and women of our Armed Forces protect our Nation.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 345—STRONGLY SUPPORTING THE RESTORATION AND PROTECTION OF STATE AUTHORITY AND FLEXIBILITY IN ESTABLISHING AND DEFINING CHALLENGING STUDENT ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENTS, AND STRONGLY DENOUNCING THE PRESIDENT'S COERCION OF STATES INTO ADOPTING THE COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS BY CONFERRING PREFERENCES IN FEDERAL GRANTS AND FLEXIBILITY WAIVERS

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. LEE, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. ENZI) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 345

Whereas education belongs in the hands of our parents, local officials, local educational agencies, and States;

Whereas the development of the common education standards known as the Common Core State Standards was originally led by national organizations, but has transformed into an incentives-based mandate from the Federal Government;

Whereas, in 2009, the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), both of which are private trade associations, began developing common education standards for kindergarten through grade 12 (referred to in this preamble as the "Common Core State Standards");

Whereas, sections 9527, 9529, 9530, and 9531 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7907, 7909, 7910, and 7911) prohibit the establishment of a national curriculum, national testing, mandatory national teacher certification, and a national student database;

Whereas Federal law makes clear that the Department of Education may not be in-

involved in setting specific content standards or determining the content of State assessments in elementary and secondary education;

Whereas President Barack Obama and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced competitive grants through the Race to the Top program under sections 14005 and 14006 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-5; 123 Stat. 282) (referred to in this preamble as the "Race to the Top program") in July 2009;

Whereas, on July 24, 2009, Secretary Duncan stated, "The \$4,350,000,000 Race to the Top program that we are unveiling today is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the Federal Government to create incentives for far-reaching improvement in our Nation's schools.";

Whereas, on July 24, 2009, Secretary Duncan also stated, "But I want to be clear that Race to the Top is also a reform competition, one where States can increase or decrease their odds of winning Federal support.";

Whereas, under the Race to the Top program guidelines, States seeking funds were pressed to implement 4 core, interconnected reforms, and the first of these reforms was to adopt "internationally benchmarked standards and assessments that prepare students for success in college and the workplace";

Whereas, on July 24, 2009, President Obama outlined the connection between common education standards and Race to the Top program funds, stating, "I am issuing a challenge to our [N]ation's governors and school boards, principals and teachers, businesses and non-profits, parents and students: if you set and enforce rigorous and challenging standards and assessments; if you put outstanding teachers at the front of the classroom; if you turn around failing schools—your State can win a Race to the Top grant that will not only help students outcompete workers around the world, but let them fulfill their God-given potential.";

Whereas the selection criteria designed by the Department of Education for the Race to the Top program provided that for a State to have any chance to compete for funding, it must commit to adopting a "common set of K-12 standards";

Whereas Common Core State Standards establish a single set of education standards for kindergarten through grade 12 in English language arts and mathematics that States adopt;

Whereas Common Core State Standards were, during the initial application period for the Race to the Top program, and remain, as of the date of the adoption of this resolution, the only common set of kindergarten through grade 12 standards in the United States;

Whereas, on July 24, 2009, Secretary Duncan stated, "To speed this process, the Race to the Top program is going to set aside \$350,000,000 to competitively fund the development of rigorous, common State assessments.";

Whereas, since the Race to the Top program's inception, States have been incentivized by Federal money to adopt common education standards;

Whereas States began adopting Common Core State Standards in 2010;

Whereas States that adopted Common Core State Standards before August 2, 2010, were awarded 40 additional points out of 500 points for their Race to the Top program applications;

Whereas 45 States have adopted Common Core State Standards;

Whereas 31 States, of the 45 total, adopted Common Core State Standards before August 2, 2010;