

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. BAR-RASSO, Mr. COONS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. Res. 92. A resolution designating February 28, 2015, as “Rare Disease Day”; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 67

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 67, a bill to amend the Securities Investor Protection Act of 1970 to confirm that a customer’s net equity claim is based on the customer’s last statement and that certain recoveries are prohibited, to change how trustees are appointed, and for other purposes.

S. 125

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 125, a bill to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the authorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2020, and for other purposes.

S. 134

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 134, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to exclude industrial hemp from the definition of marihuana, and for other purposes.

S. 269

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 269, a bill to expand sanctions imposed with respect to Iran and to impose additional sanctions with respect to Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 301

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 301, 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. 317

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 317, a bill to improve early education.

S. 351

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 351, a bill to prevent homeowners from being forced to pay taxes on forgiven mortgage loan debt.

S. 373

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 373, a bill to provide for the establishment of nationally uniform and environmentally sound standards governing discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel.

S. 394

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 394, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the 15-year recovery period for qualified leasehold improvement property, qualified restaurant property, and qualified retail improvement property.

S. 431

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 431, a bill to permanently extend the Internet Tax Freedom Act.

S. 435

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 435, a bill to amend chapter 1 of title 1, United States Code, with regard to the definition of “marriage” and “spouse” for Federal purposes and to ensure respect for State regulation of marriage.

S. 474

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 474, a bill to require State educational agencies that receive funding under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to have in effect policies and procedures on background checks for school employees.

S. 499

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 499, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to prevent concurrent receipt of unemployment benefits and Social Security disability insurance, and for other purposes.

S. 558

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 558, a bill to amend title 44, United States Code, to require information on contributors to Presidential library fundraising organizations, and for other purposes.

S. 568

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 568, a bill to extend the trade adjustment assistance program, and for other purposes.

S. 571

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 571, a bill to amend the Pilot’s Bill of Rights to facilitate appeals and to apply to other certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, to require the revision of the third class medical certification regulations issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 575

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 575, a bill to continue operation of the Human Exploitation Rescue Operative (HERO) Child Rescue Corps, a Cyber Crimes Center, a Child Exploitation Investigations Unit, a Computer Forensics Unit, and a Cyber Crimes Unit to support the mission of the Homeland Security Investigations directorate of United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement to combat the exploitation of children.

S. 586

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 586, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to foster more effective implementation and coordination of clinical care for people with pre-diabetes, diabetes, and the chronic diseases and conditions that result from diabetes.

S. RES. 87

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 87, a resolution to express the sense of the Senate regarding the rise of anti-Semitism in Europe and to encourage greater cooperation with the European governments, the European Union, and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe in preventing and responding to anti-Semitism.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. 610. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of P.S. 103 in West Baltimore, Maryland and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I am proud to introduce the Justice Thurgood Marshall’s Elementary School Study Act. The elementary school that Justice Marshall attended, known as PS 103, located in my hometown of Baltimore, is a place of national significance because it marks the site where one of our nation’s greatest legal minds began his education.

Thurgood Marshall is well known as one of the most significant historical figures of the American civil rights movement. By the time he was 32 he was appointed the chief legal counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP. He served at the NAACP a total of twenty-five years and was a key strategist to end racial segregation throughout the United States.

Perhaps the greatest illustration of this effort was his victory before the Supreme Court overturning the Plessy doctrine effectively ending school segregation with the landmark decision in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, KS*, in 1954. Not only did this case open up educational opportunity and sparked the civil rights movement in this nation, it also marked the beginning of Thurgood Marshall's career, still a young attorney from Baltimore, as one of the greatest legal minds in all the land. This case was just one of the 29 cases he won before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Fittingly, Marshall was the first African American confirmed to the Supreme Court. He was nominated by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1967 and served 24 years, until 1991. On the high court, Marshall continued his fight for the Constitutional protection of individual human rights.

But Thurgood Marshall was not always a legal giant. He was once a young boy growing up in West Baltimore. He received the first 6 years of his public education at PS 103. An apocryphal story goes that a young Thurgood Marshall studied the U.S. Constitution in the basement of the building while serving detention. Regardless of whether or not this is true, the building powerfully tells the story of racial segregation in America, PS 103 was a "blacks only" school when Justice Marshall was a student, and marks the academic beginning of one of the country's most brilliant legal thinkers and a pioneer of the civil rights movement.

The building is located at 1315 Division Street in the Upton Neighborhood of Old West Baltimore. The building is part of the Old West Baltimore National Register Historic District, and is listed as a contributing historic resource for the neighborhood. The Old West Baltimore historic district is one of the largest predominately African American historic districts in the country, and its significance is centered on the African American experience in the area.

In Baltimore, we are fortunate to have the National Park Service operate two historical sites, Fort McHenry and the Hampton Mansion. Adding PS 103 is a unique opportunity for the National Park Service to work in Baltimore's inner-city and to reach out and engage people about African American history.

Needless to say, Thurgood Marshall's legacy is one that should be preserved. He was one of our country's greatest legal minds and a prominent historical figure of one chapter of our country's

great history—the civil rights movement. This bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of PS 103 to evaluate the suitability and feasibility of establishing the building as a unit of the National Park Service. Preserving the building that was Justice Marshall's elementary school will give Americans insight into Justice Marshall's childhood.

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. 610

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Thurgood Marshall's Elementary School Study Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **SECRETARY.**—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) **STUDY AREA.**—The term "study area" means—

(A) P.S. 103, the public school located in West Baltimore, Maryland, which Thurgood Marshall attended as a youth; and

(B) any other resources in the neighborhood surrounding P.S. 103 that relate to the early life of Thurgood Marshall.

SEC. 3. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.

(a) **STUDY.**—The Secretary shall conduct a special resource study of the study area.

(b) **CONTENTS.**—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) evaluate the national significance of the study area;

(2) determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the study area as a unit of the National Park System;

(3) consider other alternatives for preservation, protection, and interpretation of the study area by the Federal Government, State or local government entities, or private and nonprofit organizations;

(4) consult with interested Federal agencies, State or local governmental entities, private and nonprofit organizations, or any other interested individuals; and

(5) identify cost estimates for any Federal acquisition, development, interpretation, operation, and maintenance associated with the alternatives.

(c) **APPLICABLE LAW.**—The study required under subsection (a) shall be conducted in accordance with section 100507 of title 54, United States Code.

(d) **REPORT.**—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are first made available to carry out the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that describes—

(1) the results of the study; and

(2) any conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 616. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide recruitment and retention incentives for volunteer emergency service workers; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Volunteer Emergency Services Recruitment and Retention Act of 2015. This bill fixes a

long-standing problem with the tax code that harms the ability of volunteer fire departments to recruit and retain both firefighters and emergency service personnel.

For years, local and State governments have provided their volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel with different forms of benefits including Length of Service Award Plans, commonly known as LOSAPs. These are pension-like benefits for volunteer emergency responders.

Unfortunately, the way the tax code handles LOSAPs hinders the ability of departments to administer plans and makes it more difficult for volunteer emergency personnel to receive benefits.

My bill would simplify the taxation of LOSAPs in two steps. First, it would allow an election to treat LOSAPs as deferred compensation plans, and second, it would exempt them from the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. These two changes will improve access to LOSAP benefits for volunteer emergency responders, without increasing Federal spending.

Today, an estimated 180,000 volunteer firefighters across 27 states participate in some form of LOSAP. Many states that do not offer these benefits would be more likely to do so if the Federal tax code were simplified. This, in turn, would help volunteer fire departments to recruit more easily and retain personnel. These men and women, our local first responders, are the foundation of our emergency response capabilities.

These volunteers put their lives on the line to help protect our communities, and their spirit of selflessness and service should be rewarded. I am pleased to introduce this legislation with Senator SCHUMER, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this bill through the Senate and into law.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 92—DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 28, 2015, AS "RARE DISEASE DAY"

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. COONS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 92

Whereas a rare disease or disorder is one that affects a small number of patients – in the United States, typically less than 200,000 individuals annually;

Whereas as of the date of approval of this resolution, nearly 7,000 rare diseases affect approximately 30,000,000 people in the United States and their families;

Whereas children with rare genetic diseases account for more than half of the population affected by rare diseases in the United States;