

S. 696. A bill to increase the number and percentage of students who graduate from high school college and career ready with the ability to use knowledge to solve complex problems, think critically, communicate effectively, collaborate with others, and develop academic mindsets, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. UDALL (for himself, Mr. VITTER, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. COONS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. DONNELLY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. HOEVEN, and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 697. A bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to reauthorize and modernize that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. REED, Mr. CORKER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. KING):

S. 698. A bill to restore States' sovereign rights to enforce State and local sales and use tax laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 699. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the American Opportunity Tax Credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 700. A bill to amend the Asbestos Information Act of 1988 to establish a public database of asbestos-containing products, to require public disclosure of information pertaining to the manufacture, processing, distribution, and use of asbestos-containing products in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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

S. 701. A bill for the relief of Tim Lowry and Paul Nettleton of Owyhee County, Idaho; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. NELSON (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Res. 99. A resolution calling on the Government of Iran to fulfill its promises of assistance in the case of Robert Levinson, the longest held United States civilian in our Nation's History; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 139

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 139, a bill to permanently allow an exclusion under the Supplemental Security Income program and the Medicaid program for compensation provided to individuals who participate in clinical trials for rare diseases or conditions.

S. 155

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 155, a bill to promote freedom, fairness, and economic opportunity by repealing the income tax and other taxes, abolishing the Internal Revenue Service, and enacting a national sales tax to be administered primarily by the States.

S. 178

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, her name was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 178, a bill to provide justice for the victims of trafficking.

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 178, *supra*.

S. 197

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 197, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to award grants to States to improve delivery of high-quality assessments, and for other purposes.

S. 207

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) were added as cosponsors of S. 207, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to use existing authorities to furnish health care at non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities to veterans who live more than 40 miles driving distance from the closest medical facility of the Department that furnishes the care sought by the veteran, and for other purposes.

S. 262

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of S. 262, a bill to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and for other purposes.

S. 271

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 271, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 314

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 314, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of pharmacist services.

S. 335

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 335, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve 529 plans.

S. 352

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 352, a bill to amend section 5000A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an additional religious exemption from the individual health coverage mandate, and for other purposes.

S. 373

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) 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. 405

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARASSO), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. McCASKILL), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 405, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

S. 423

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 423, a bill to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception to the annual written privacy notice requirement.

S. 440

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. 440, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an exclusion for assistance provided to participants in certain veterinary student loan repayment or forgiveness.

S. 474

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor 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. 505

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi

(Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 505, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the Health Coverage Tax Credit.

S. 539

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) were added as cosponsors of S. 539, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps.

S. 546

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 546, a bill to establish the Railroad Emergency Services Preparedness, Operational Needs, and Safety Evaluation (RESPONSE) Subcommittee under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Advisory Council to provide recommendations on emergency responder training and resources relating to hazardous materials incidents involving railroads, and for other purposes.

S. 559

At the request of Mr. BURR, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) were added as cosponsors of S. 559, a bill to prohibit the Secretary of Education from engaging in regulatory overreach with regard to institutional eligibility under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

S. 578

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 578, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 582

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 582, a bill to prohibit taxpayer funded abortions.

S. 591

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 591, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the new markets tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 615

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) were added as cosponsors of S. 615, a bill to provide for congressional review and oversight of agreements relating to Iran's nuclear program, and for other purposes.

S. 627

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a co-

sponsor of S. 627, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to revoke bonuses paid to employees involved in electronic wait list manipulations, and for other purposes.

S. 678

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 678, a bill to declare English as the official language of the United States, to establish a uniform English language rule for naturalization, and to avoid misconstructions of the English language texts of the laws of the United States, pursuant to Congress' powers to provide for the general welfare of the United States and to establish a uniform rule of naturalization under article I, section 8, of the Constitution.

S. CON. RES. 4

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 4, a concurrent resolution supporting the Local Radio Freedom Act.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. PAUL):

S. 683. A bill to extend the principle of federalism to State drug policy, provide access to medical marijuana, and enable research into the medicinal properties of marijuana; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I wish to introduce the Compassionate Access, Research Expansion, and Respect States Act CARERS Act. This commonsense legislation would make our Federal marijuana criminal laws fairer and more in line with our values and ensure that medical marijuana is more accessible to the millions of Americans who need it for treatment purposes. I thank Senator KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND and Senator RAND PAUL for joining me on this bill, and I appreciate their hard work on this legislation.

The CARERS Act would clarify how the Federal Government handles medical marijuana in the States. Currently, 23 States and the District of Columbia have passed laws legalizing medical marijuana for qualified patients. But the Federal Government still bans medical marijuana and treats the people who use it with contempt. It is time we end this backward approach toward a substance that helps treat millions of Americans, including veterans, who suffer from debilitating diseases.

Today, the Federal Government classifies marijuana as a schedule I drug, meaning it lacks a recognized medical value and it has a high potential for abuse. Incredibly, marijuana shares the same classification with such drugs as heroin or LSD-substances that no one disputes are incredibly dangerous and

harmful. Schedule II is the next controlled substances category for drugs deemed to have some medical use, such as cocaine and methamphetamine. The view that marijuana has no medical use whatsoever, but the methamphetamine has some medicinal use is troubling and contrary to science. We can do better.

In 2013, the Department of Justice issued guidance to Federal prosecutors and regulators to refrain from prosecuting individuals that use, purchase or sell marijuana in States where it is legal as long as a State regulatory framework exists that maintains certain standards, such as a ban on sales to minors. As a result of this guidance, more and more States have taken steps to legalize medical marijuana.

Sadly, despite this guidance, the inability of Federal and State law to be on the same page regarding the legality of medical marijuana has resulted in confusion and uncertainty for State regulators and the public about what the law requires. This lack of clarity is only part of the problem. Individual users of medical marijuana in States with legalized medical marijuana continue to be targeted by the Drug Enforcement Agency. That is unacceptable and must change. Individuals who use medical marijuana in States where it is legal should not fear prosecution simply based on prosecutorial discretion. We can do better.

I am encouraged that the winds of change are blowing at the Federal level on whether to prosecute medical marijuana, but confusion remains. While the 2013 guidance likely trumps the prior two memorandum, what message do these documents send? Is medical marijuana legal or not? Is it right that the law can be changed at a moment's notice by an unelected Federal prosecutor? And what protection does State law afford medical marijuana users when State and Federal law collide, especially when marijuana is classified by the Federal Government as a schedule I drug? This legislation brings certainty and uniformity to these issues.

Another problem with current law is that medical marijuana operates largely in the shadows because financial institutions are scared to do business with legitimate marijuana businesses. Banks and other financial institutions are hesitant to do business with legitimate marijuana businesses because they are concerned about losing their Federal depository insurance or facing Federal prosecution. As a result, the medical marijuana industry operates largely as a cash business which is bad for the economy and endangers public safety. Dealing with high quantities of cash and having to transport it leaves these businesses and their operatives as easy targets for criminals.

The current medical marijuana situation in America is untenable. It is unfair for the Americans that operate legitimate marijuana businesses. It is unfair to people with disabilities, including veterans with post-traumatic