

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 1130. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve procedures for legal justice for members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. COONS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 1131. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to reduce the incidence of diabetes among Medicare beneficiaries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. 1132. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for patient protection by establishing safe nurse staffing levels at certain Medicare providers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. UDALL, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 1133. A bill to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. AYOTTE (for herself and Mr. DONNELLY):

S. 1134. A bill to address prescription opioid abuse and heroin use; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. MCCASKILL (for herself and Mr. BURR):

S. 1135. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for fairness in hospital payments under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 1136. A bill relating to the modernization of C-130 aircraft to meet applicable regulations of the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. LEE, Mr. HATCH, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 1137. A bill to amend title 35, United States Code, and the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act to make improvements and technical corrections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 1138. A bill to reclassify certain low-level felonies as misdemeanors, to eliminate the increased penalties for cocaine offenses where the cocaine involved is cocaine base, to reinvest in our communities, and for other purposes; 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. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. Res. 154. A resolution designating May 16, 2015, as "Kids to Parks Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. Res. 155. A resolution establishing May 2, 2015, as a Day of Recognition for Ebola Orphans to express support for the children and families affected by the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa by promoting awareness of the children of West Africa who have been orphaned by the 2014 Ebola epidemic, celebrating those who have recognized and are working to fulfill the needs of children, and encouraging the people of the United States to continue to support the people of West Africa; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 185

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 185, a bill to create a limited population pathway for approval of certain antibacterial drugs.

S. 192

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 192, a bill to reauthorize the Older Americans Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

S. 271

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) 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. 373

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) 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. 423

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 423, a bill to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception to the annual written privacy notice requirement.

S. 433

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 433, a bill to establish a benefit calculation methodology with respect to currency undervaluation for purposes of countervailing duty investigations and reviews, and for other purposes.

S. 450

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from California

(Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 450, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax rate parity among all tobacco products, and for other purposes.

S. 471

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 471, a bill to improve the provision of health care for women veterans by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 536

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 536, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income payments under the Indian Health Service Loan Repayment Program and certain amounts received under the Indian Health Professions Scholarship Program.

S. 578

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) 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. 611

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 611, a bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to reauthorize technical assistance to small public water systems, and for other purposes.

S. 654

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 654, a bill to exempt certain class A CDL drivers from the requirement to obtain a hazardous material endorsement while operating a service vehicle with a fuel tank containing 3,785 liters (1,000 gallons) or less of diesel fuel.

S. 713

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 713, a bill to prevent international violence against women, and for other purposes.

S. 730

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 730, a bill to permanently extend the Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act of 2009.

S. 766

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 766, a bill to limit the retrieval of data from vehicle event data recorders, and for other purposes.

S. 774

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 774, a bill to amend the

Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council Act of 1978 to improve the examination of depository institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 776

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 776, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to medication therapy management under part D of the Medicare program.

S. 801

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 801, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to provide for appropriate designation of collective bargaining units.

S. 812

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) were added as cosponsors of S. 812, a bill to enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, and for other purposes.

S. 824

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 824, a bill to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 862

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 862, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

S. 871

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 871, a bill to provide for an application process for interested parties to apply for an area to be designated as a rural area, and for other purposes.

S. 893

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 893, a bill to establish an Energy Productivity Innovation Challenge (EPIC) to assist energy policy innovation in the States to promote the goal of doubling electric and thermal energy productivity by January 1, 2030.

S. 898

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr.

MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 898, 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. 933

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 933, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act with respect to the timing of elections and pre-election hearings and the identification of pre-election issues, and to require that lists of employees eligible to vote in organizing elections be provided to the National Labor Relations Board.

S. 957

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 957, a bill to increase access to capital for veteran entrepreneurs to help create jobs.

S. 974

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 974, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to prohibit employment of children in tobacco-related agriculture by deeming such employment as oppressive child labor.

S. 993

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 993, a bill to increase public safety by facilitating collaboration among the criminal justice, juvenile justice, veterans treatment services, mental health treatment, and substance abuse systems.

S. 998

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 998, a bill to establish a process for the consideration of temporary duty suspensions and reductions, and for other purposes.

S. 1032

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1032, a bill to expand the use of E-Verify, to hold employers accountable, and for other purposes.

S. 1117

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1117, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to remove senior executives of the Department of Veterans Affairs for performance or misconduct to include removal of certain other employees of the Department, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 4

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from Maryland

(Ms. MIKULSKI) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 4, a concurrent resolution supporting the Local Radio Freedom Act.

AMENDMENT NO. 1138

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1138 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1191, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

AMENDMENT NO. 1141

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1141 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1191, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

AMENDMENT NO. 1145

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1145 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1191, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

AMENDMENT NO. 1146

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1146 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1191, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

AMENDMENT NO. 1147

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1147 proposed to H.R. 1191, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

AMENDMENT NO. 1151

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr.

PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1151 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1191, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

AMENDMENT NO. 1189

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HERTKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1189 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1191, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

AMENDMENT NO. 1190

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1190 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1191, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

S. 1127. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the denial of deduction for certain excessive employee remuneration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am reintroducing the Stop Subsidizing Multimillion Dollar Corporate Bonuses Act with my colleague, Senator BLUMENTHAL. This bill closes a loophole that allows publicly traded corporations to deduct an executive's pay that exceeds \$1 million from their tax bill.

Under current tax law, when a public corporation calculates its taxable income, it is generally permitted to deduct the cost of compensation from its revenues, with limits up to \$1 million for some of the firm's most senior executives. However, a loophole relating to performance-based compensation has allowed many public corporations to avoid such limits and freely deduct excessive executive compensation. To illustrate how this loophole works, if a CEO receives \$15 million in performance-based compensation in a given year, the public corporation's taxable income would decline by \$15 million. With the current corporate tax rate at 35 percent, the corporation in this case would receive a tax cut of \$5.25 million.

The Stop Subsidizing Multimillion Dollar Corporate Bonuses Act would

instead allow a public corporation to deduct all forms of compensation up to only \$1 million per employee. Using the same example above, a profitable public corporation, after deducting only \$1 million from the \$15 million in CEO compensation, would then pay \$4.9 million in taxes. In short, instead of costing the government \$5.25 million, this public corporation will be paying \$4.9 million in taxes, reducing the burden on middle-class families and our national debt.

Indeed, over a 10-year window, the Joint Committee on Taxation, in their most recent assessment, estimated that closing this loophole would save U.S. taxpayers over \$50 billion.

First, our legislation extends section 162(m) of the Tax Code to apply to all employees of publicly traded corporations so that all compensation is subject to a deductibility cap of \$1 million. Publicly traded corporations would still be permitted to pay their executives as much as they desire, but compensation above and beyond \$1 million would no longer be subsidized through our Tax Code.

Second, our bill removes the exemption for performance-based compensation, which currently permits compensation deductions above and beyond \$1 million when executives have met performance benchmarks set by the corporation's board of directors. As a result, publicly traded corporations would still be able to incentivize their executives, but all such incentives would be subject to a corporate deductibility cap of \$1 million.

Finally, our legislation makes a technical correction to ensure that all publicly traded corporations that are required to provide quarterly and annual reports to their investors under Securities and Exchange Commission rules and regulations are subject to section 162(m). Currently, this section of the Tax Code only covers some publicly traded corporations that are required to provide these periodic reports to their shareholders. Discouraging unrestrained compensation packages shouldn't hinge on whether a publicly traded corporation falls into one SEC reporting requirement or another, and our bill closes this technical loophole.

With this legislation, we aim to put an end to some of the extravagant tax breaks that exclusively benefit public corporations. This is simply a matter of fairness, ensuring that corporations—and not taxpayers who face their own challenges in this economy—are paying for the multimillion dollar bonuses they have decided to dole out.

I want to thank Senator BLUMENTHAL for working with me on this issue, and I urge our colleagues to join us in cosponsoring this legislation.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. LEE, Mr. HATCH, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 1137. A bill to amend title 35, United States Code, and the Leahy-

Smith America Invents Act to make improvements and technical corrections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, the U.S. is the world's leader in innovation. Yet today, our patent system—which has allowed generations of inventors, innovators, and entrepreneurs to thrive—is under attack from bad actors, also known as “patent trolls”.

Abusive patent litigation is stifling the innovation and entrepreneurship that our patent system has been designed to protect. Over the last decade, there has been an explosion in the growth of this type of harmful litigation as those who exploit abusive patent litigation tactics for financial gain have taken aim at businesses operating in every sector of our economy.

From Main Street to Wall Street to Silicon Valley, from start-ups to neighborhood restaurants to major retailers—businesses and consumers across the country are being harmed. Because of this abuse, innovative companies spend less time and resources on research and innovation, and often must have their talented workforce devote many man-hours to defending against baseless claims. This comes at the expense of discovering that next medical breakthrough or rolling out new technologies that will create jobs.

Patent trolls prey on businesses by filing frivolous lawsuits and employing an array of heavy-handed and deceptive tactics to scare plaintiffs into settlements. These bad actors send vague and overly broad demand letters, exploit loose pleading standards that provide little substance of the alleged infringement claims, hide their identity behind shell companies, and use the threat of high cost patent litigation discovery as a weapon. This is a drag on our economy, costing an estimated \$80 billion annually in direct and indirect costs. This means fewer jobs created, less innovation, and higher costs for consumers.

To restore integrity to our patent system, today, along with Judiciary Committee Ranking Member LEAHY, and Senators CORNYN, SCHUMER, LEE, HATCH and KLOBUCHAR, I am introducing the Protecting American Talent and Entrepreneurship Act, PATENT Act.

This builds upon the reforms made by the America Invents Act and will promote the intellectual property rights that our Founding Fathers recognized are key to American innovation. The provisions of the PATENT Act will promote more transparency in patent ownership, establish a clear, uniform standard for pleading in patent cases, and deter abusive litigation. I would like to note some of the key provisions in the bill.

The PATENT Act will require plaintiffs in a patent suit to identify each patent and each claim that is allegedly infringed, which products are infringing, and include a description of the alleged infringement. The current requirements for pleading in a patent