

and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Status for Gunnison Sage-grouse" (RIN1018-AZ20) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. Res. 39. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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. HATCH (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 250. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit threats against former Vice Presidents and members of their families, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MARKEY, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 251. A bill to aid and support pediatric involvement in reading and education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 252. A bill to prohibit the consideration of any bill by Congress unless a statement on tax transparency is provided in the bill; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. HELLER:

S. 253. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to consolidate the reporting obligations of the Federal Communications Commission in order to improve congressional oversight and reduce reporting burdens; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. SCOTT):

S. 254. A bill to lower health premiums and increase choice for small businesses; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 255. A bill to restore the integrity of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, 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 Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. Res. 39. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. TESTER, Mr. CARPER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. KING):

S. Res. 40. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding efforts by the

United States and others to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Ms. HEITKAMP):

S. Res. 41. A resolution congratulating the North Dakota State University football team for winning the 2014 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Football Championship Subdivision title; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 11

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 11, a bill to protect the separation of powers in the Constitution of the United States by ensuring that the President takes care that the laws be faithfully executed, and for other purposes.

S. 48

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 48, a bill to prohibit discrimination against the unborn on the basis of sex or gender, and for other purposes.

S. 73

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) were added as cosponsors of S. 73, a bill to prohibit the Federal Government from mandating, incentivizing, or coercing States to adopt the Common Core State Standards or any other specific academic standards, instructional content, curricula, assessments, or programs of instruction.

S. 85

At the request of Mr. BURR, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 85, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish a simplified income-driven repayment plan, and for other purposes.

S. 108

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) were added as cosponsors of S. 108, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve access for students to Federal grants and loans to help pay for postsecondary, graduate, and professional educational opportunities, and for other purposes.

S. 143

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 143, a bill to allow for improvements to the United States Merchant Marine Academy and for other purposes.

S. 158

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from West Vir-

ginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 158, a bill to authorize health insurance issuers to continue to offer for sale current group health insurance coverage in satisfaction of the minimum essential health insurance coverage requirement, and for other purposes.

S. 165

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 165, a bill to extend and enhance prohibitions and limitations with respect to the transfer or release of individuals detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and for other purposes.

S. 167

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 167, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for the conduct of annual evaluations of mental health care and suicide prevention programs of 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. 168

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) were added as cosponsors of S. 168, a bill to codify and modify regulatory requirements of Federal agencies.

S. 178

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 178, a bill to provide justice for the victims of trafficking.

S. 183

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 183, a bill to repeal the annual fee on health insurance providers enacted by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. 200

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 200, a bill to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to provide for macroeconomic analysis of the impact of major revenue legislation.

S. 203

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 203, a bill to restore Americans' individual liberty by striking the Federal mandate to purchase insurance.

S. 207

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota

(Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor 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.J. RES. 5

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 5, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

S. RES. 35

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 35, a resolution commemorating the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz extermination camp in Nazi-occupied Poland.

AMENDMENT NO. 48

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 48 intended to be proposed to S. 1, a bill to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline.

AMENDMENT NO. 92

At the request of Mr. BURR, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 92 intended to be proposed to S. 1, a bill to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MARKEY, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 251. A bill to aid and support pediatric involvement in reading and education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I introduce with my colleague, Senator GRASSLEY, the Prescribe a Book Act I

thank Senators MARKEY, STABENOW, and WARREN for joining us as original cosponsors of this bipartisan bill.

Literacy skills are the foundation for success in school and in life. Developing and building these skills begins at home, with parents as the first teachers. Children who are read to frequently at home are more likely to become frequent readers themselves in later years. Indeed, according to Scholastic's Kids and Families Reading Report, among children ages 6–11, 60 percent of frequent readers, those who read 57 days per week for fun, were read to aloud by a parent 5–7 times per week before they entered kindergarten. This highlights the important role that parents play in building their children's literacy skills.

To help support the parental role in literacy, the Prescribe a Book Act would create a federal pediatric early literacy grant initiative based on the long-standing, successful Reach Out and Read program. The program would award grants on a competitive basis to high-quality nonprofit entities to train doctors and nurses to discuss with parents the importance of reading aloud to their children and to give books to children at pediatric check-ups from 6 months to 5 years of age, with a priority for children from low-income families. It builds on the relationship between parents and medical providers and helps families and communities encourage early literacy skills so children enter school prepared for success in reading.

I was pleased to see last year that the American Academy of Pediatrics, AAP, recognized the important role that pediatric providers play in enhancing children's literacy skills. In a policy statement, AAP recommended that pediatric providers promote early literacy development for children from birth to at least kindergarten entry, including by counseling parents on the importance of reading to their children and through providing age-appropriate books to high-risk, low-income young children.

Evidence shows that that the pediatric literacy model works. Research published in peer-reviewed, scientific journals has found that parents who have participated in the Reach Out and Read program are significantly more likely to read to their children and include more children's books in their home, and that children served by the program show an increase of 4–8 points on vocabulary tests. I have seen up close the positive impact of this program on children and their families when visiting a number of Rhode Island's Reach Out and Read sites. Building on existing efforts, which in the past have been supported by Federal funding included in the appropriations process and distributed by the Department of Education, and matched by tens of millions of dollars from the private sector and State governments, the Prescribe a Book Act would establish a formal authorization modeled on this

type of successful public-private partnership. By so doing, it would leverage Federal dollars to expand pediatric literacy initiatives so that more young children reap the developmental benefits of having books at home and being read to by their parents.

I urge our colleagues to join us in cosponsoring the Prescribe a Book Act, and to work to include its provisions in the upcoming reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 252. A bill to prohibit the consideration of any bill by Congress unless a statement on tax transparency is provided in the bill; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

Mr. CORNYN. 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. 252

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 "Tax Transparency Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. TAX EFFECT TRANSPARENCY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 2 of title 1, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 102 the following:

"§ 102a. Tax effect transparency

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Each Act of Congress, bill, resolution, conference report thereon, or amendment there to, that modifies Federal tax law shall contain a statement describing the general effect of the modification on Federal tax law.

"(b) FAILURE TO COMPLY.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—A failure to comply with subsection (a) shall give rise to a point of order in either House of Congress, which may be raised by any Senator during consideration in the Senate or any Member of the House of Representatives during consideration in the House of Representatives.

"(2) NONEXCLUSIVITY.—The availability of a point of order under this section shall not affect the availability of any other point of order.

"(c) DISPOSITION OF POINT OF ORDER IN THE SENATE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Any Senator may raise a point of order that any matter is not in order under subsection (a).

"(2) WAIVER.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Any Senator may move to waive a point of order raised under paragraph (1) by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn.

"(B) PROCEDURES.—For a motion to waive a point of order under subparagraph (A) as to a matter—

"(i) a motion to table the point of order shall not be in order;

"(ii) all motions to waive one or more points of order under this section as to the matter shall be debatable for a total of not more than 1 hour, equally divided between the Senator raising the point of order and the Senator moving to waive the point of order or their designees; and

"(iii) a motion to waive the point of order shall not be amendable.

"(d) DISPOSITION OF POINT OF ORDER IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—If a Member of the House of Representatives makes a point of order