

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. McCAIN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CORKER, Mr. COATS, Mr. DAINES, Mr. SASSE, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. MORAN):

S. 1919. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to protect rights of conscience with regard to requirements for coverage of specific items and services, to amend the Public Health Service Act to prohibit certain abortion-related discrimination in governmental activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 1920. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to develop and submit to Congress a biennial report on the current state of the skills gap in the United States, as of the date of the report, that includes an analysis of the effectiveness of efforts to close the skills gap and policy recommendations to improve such efforts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MURPHY:

S. 1921. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to encourage States to adopt administrative procedures with respect to nonmedical exemptions for State immunization requirements; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. COATS, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. BLUNT):

S. 1922. A bill to amend titles II and XVI of the Social Security Act to provide for quality reviews of benefit decisions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. COATS, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. BLUNT):

S. 1923. A bill to amend titles II and XVI of the Social Security Act to provide certain individuals with information on employment support services; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 1924. A bill to transfer administrative jurisdiction over certain Bureau of Land Management land from the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for inclusion in the Black Hills National Cemetery, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. UDALL, Mr. BENNET, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. PETERS, Mr. TESTER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. KING, Mr. LEAHY, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 1925. A bill to extend the secure rural schools and community self-determination program and to make permanent the payment in lieu of taxes program and the land and water conservation fund; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Ms. AYOTTE):

S. 1926. A bill to ensure access to screening mammography services; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COATS (for himself and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 1927. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to postpone the effective date of high-impact rules pending judicial review; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. FRANKEN, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 1928. A bill to support the education of Indian children; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. COATS, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. BLUNT):

S. 1929. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to prevent disability fraud, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. PERDUE):

S. 1930. A bill to adjust the boundary of the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park to include the Wallis House and Harriston Hill, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 1931. A bill to reaffirm that certain land has been taken into trust for the benefit of certain Indian tribes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. BENNET:

S. 1932. A bill to provide States with flexibility to use Federal IV-E funding for State child welfare programs to improve safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes for all children who need child welfare services; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORKER (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. COLLENS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. COONS, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 1933. A bill to establish a comprehensive United States Government policy to encourage the efforts of countries in sub-Saharan Africa to develop an appropriate mix of power solutions, including renewable energy, for more broadly distributed electricity access in order to support poverty reduction, promote development outcomes, and drive economic growth, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. COONS, and Mr. PETERS):

S. 1934. A bill to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to establish the Scale-up Manufacturing Investment Company (“SUMIC”) Program; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. KING, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. PETERS):

S. 1935. A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to undertake certain activities to support waterfront community revitalization and resiliency; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. UDALL (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 1936. A bill to provide for drought preparedness measures in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. UDALL:

S. 1937. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to improve nutrition in tribal areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 258

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 258, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the 96-hour physician certification requirement for inpatient critical access hospital services.

S. 314

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Wyoming

(Mr. BARRASSO) 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. 356

At the request of Mr. LEE, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 356, a bill to improve the provisions relating to the privacy of electronic communications.

S. 779

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 779, a bill to provide for Federal agencies to develop public access policies relating to research conducted by employees of that agency or from funds administered by that agency.

S. 849

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 849, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for systematic data collection and analysis and epidemiological research regarding Multiple Sclerosis (MS), Parkinson’s disease, and other neurological diseases.

S. 1049

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1049, a bill to allow the financing by United States persons of sales of agricultural commodities to Cuba.

S. 1065

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1065, a bill to amend title IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide grants for the development of asthma management plans and the purchase of asthma inhalers and spacers for emergency use, as necessary.

S. 1085

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1085, a bill to expand eligibility for the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to expand benefits available to participants under such program, to enhance special compensation for members of the uniformed services who require assistance in everyday life, and for other purposes.

S. 1121

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1121, a bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1314

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1314, a bill to establish an interim rule for the operation of small unmanned aircraft for commercial purposes and their safe integration into the national airspace system.

S. 1360

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1360, a bill to amend the limitation on liability for passenger rail accidents or incidents under section 28103 of title 49, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 1382

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1382, a bill to prohibit discrimination in adoption or foster care placements based on the sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status of any prospective adoptive or foster parent, or the sexual orientation or gender identity of the child involved.

S. 1466

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1466, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modify payment under the Medicare program for outpatient department procedures that utilize drugs as supplies, and for other purposes.

S. 1491

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1491, a bill to provide sensible relief to community financial institutions, to protect consumers, and for other purposes.

S. 1532

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1532, a bill to ensure timely access to affordable birth control for women.

S. 1617

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1617, a bill to prevent Hezbollah and associated entities from gaining access to international financial and other institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 1632

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1632, a bill to require a regional strategy to address the threat posed by Boko Haram.

S. 1659

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 1659, a bill to

amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to revise the criteria for determining which States and political subdivisions are subject to section 4 of the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1709

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1709, a bill to reduce risks to the financial system by limiting banks' ability to engage in certain risky activities and limiting conflicts of interest, to reinstate certain Glass-Steagall Act protections that were repealed by the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1819

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1819, a bill to improve security at Armed Forces recruitment centers.

S. 1844

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1844, a bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to provide for voluntary country of origin labeling for beef, pork, and chicken.

S. 1897

At the request of Mr. SCOTT, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1897, a bill to help keep law enforcement officers and communities safer by making grants to purchase body worn cameras for use by State, local, and tribal law enforcement officers.

S. 1911

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1911, a bill to implement policies to end preventable maternal, newborn, and child deaths globally.

S. 1912

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1912, a bill to protect the rights of Indian and Native Alaskan voters.

S. 1918

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1918, a bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to extend the import- and export-related provision of that Act to species proposed for listing as threatened or endangered under that Act.

S. RES. 148

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 148, a resolution condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

S. RES. 228

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Connecticut

(Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 228, a resolution designating September 2015 as "National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month".

AMENDMENT NO. 2547

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2547 intended to be proposed to S. 754, an original bill to improve cybersecurity in the United States through enhanced sharing of information about cybersecurity threats, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2548

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2548 intended to be proposed to S. 754, an original bill to improve cybersecurity in the United States through enhanced sharing of information about cybersecurity threats, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. COATS, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. BLUNT):

S. 1922. A bill to amend titles II and XVI of the Social Security Act to provide for quality reviews of benefit decisions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise to speak once again on the Social Security Disability Insurance—or DI—Program. As everyone in this Chamber should know, the DI trust fund is projected to be exhausted next year. That means, absent any change in law, we will be seeing across-the-board benefit cuts of close to 20 percent for DI beneficiaries. Over the last several months, I have come to the floor on a handful of occasions to talk about this program and the imminent depreciation of its trust fund.

I have called on my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to work with me to address these issues. I will repeat that call today.

In addition, today I have introduced three separate bills that are designed to help update and improve the administration of the DI program. As we talk about solutions to address the depletion of the DI trust fund, we should also be talking about ways to update the DI program, ways to make it easier for beneficiaries who can and who desire to return to work to be able to explore those opportunities and ways to improve efforts to deter and prevent waste and fraud.

The first bill I introduced today would update and expand the Social Security Administration's tools to deter and punish fraudsters who cheat the system. The second bill would authorize the Commissioner of SSA to provide denied DI applicants with information about employment support services that are provided by both public agencies and private nonprofit organizations.