

land and non-Federal land in the State of Utah, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. REID:

S. 1986. A bill to provide for a land conveyance in the State of Nevada; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 1987. A bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act relating to lead-based paint renovation and remodeling activities; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. 1988. A bill to enhance the security of military personnel at United States military installations and operating locations; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

S. 1989. A bill to improve access to primary care services; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. CARPER):

S. 1990. A bill to require Inspectors General and the Comptroller General of the United States to submit reports on the use of logical access controls and other security practices to safeguard classified and personally identifiable information on Federal computer systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MCCAIN:

S. 1991. A bill to eliminate the sunset date for the Choice Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to expand eligibility for such program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself, Mr. THUNE, Mr. DAINES, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 1992. A bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to provide that a member of the Armed Forces and the spouse of that member shall have the same rights regarding the receipt of firearms at the location of any duty station of the member; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 1993. A bill to establish the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps to place youth and veterans in the United States in national service positions to protect, restore, and enhance the great outdoors of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CARPER:

S. 1994. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase certain fuel taxes and to strengthen the earned income tax credit and make permanent certain tax provisions under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 1995. A bill to provide grants for projects to acquire land and water for parks and other outdoor recreation purposes and to develop new or renovate existing outdoor recreation facilities; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 1996. A bill to streamline the employer reporting process and strengthen the eligibility verification process for the premium assistance tax credit and cost-sharing subsidy; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 1997. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide for wildfire mitigation grants and financial assistance in certain areas affected by wildfires; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 1998. A bill to improve college affordability; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. NELSON:

S. 1999. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating to act, without liability for certain damages, to prevent and respond to the threat of damage from pollution of the sea by crude oil, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 2000. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to allow the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into certain agreements with non-Department of Veterans Affairs health care providers if the Secretary is not feasibly able to provide health care in facilities of the Department or through contracts or sharing agreements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. AYOTTE:

S. 2001. A bill to phase out special wage certificates under section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 that allow individuals with disabilities to be paid at sub-minimum wage rates; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 2002. A bill to strengthen our mental health system and improve public safety; 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. MIKULSKI (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. Res. 242. A resolution celebrating 25 years of success from the Office of Research on Women's Health at the National Institutes of Health; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. ENZI, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. PETERS, Ms. AYOTTE, and Mr. GARDNER):

S. Res. 243. A resolution celebrating the 35th anniversary of the Small Business Development Centers of the United States; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mr. UDALL, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. Res. 244. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the "Laudato Si" encyclical of Pope Francis, and global climate change; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. KING, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. AYOTTE, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. Res. 245. A resolution designating the week beginning September 13, 2015, as "National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. NELSON, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. CASEY, Mr. WARNER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr.

BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. COONS, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. McCASKILL, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. UDALL, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. Res. 246. A resolution commemorating 80 years since the creation of Social Security; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ISAKSON:

S. Res. 247. A resolution commemorating and honoring the actions of President Harry S. Truman and the crews of the Enola Gay and Bockscar in using the atomic bomb to bring World War II to an end; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. VITTER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. KING, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. Res. 248. A resolution designating September 2015 as "National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 142

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 142, a bill to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a rule to require child safety packaging for liquid nicotine containers, and for other purposes.

S. 210

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 210, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for amounts paid by a spouse of a member of the Armed Forces for a new State license or certification required by reason of a permanent change in the duty station of such member to another State.

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 210, *supra*.

S. 235

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 235, a bill to provide for wildfire suppression operations, and for other purposes.

S. 271

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, her name 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. 283

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 283, a bill to prohibit the Internal Revenue Service from modifying the standard for determining whether an organization is operated exclusively for the promotion of social welfare for purposes of section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

S. 298

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 298, a bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to provide States with the option of providing services to children with medically complex conditions under the Medicaid program and Children's Health Insurance Program through a care coordination program focused on improving health outcomes for children with medically complex conditions and lowering costs, and for other purposes.

S. 330

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 330, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions, and for other purposes.

S. 471

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) 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. 497

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 497, a bill to allow Americans to earn paid sick time so that they can address their own health needs and the health needs of their families.

S. 564

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 564, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to include licensed hearing aid specialists as eligible for appointment in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 569

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 569, a bill to reauthorize the farm to school program, and for other purposes.

S. 598

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a co-

sponsor of S. 598, a bill to improve the understanding of, and promote access to treatment for, chronic kidney disease, and for other purposes.

S. 613

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 613, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the efficiency of summer meals.

S. 637

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 637, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 661

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 661, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance the dependent care tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 706

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 706, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require institutions of higher education to have an independent advocate for campus sexual assault prevention and response.

S. 776

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) 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. 799

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 799, a bill to combat the rise of prenatal opioid abuse and neonatal abstinence syndrome.

S. 804

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 804, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to specify coverage of continuous glucose monitoring devices, and for other purposes.

S. 901

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 901, a bill to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a national center for research on the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions of the descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during service in the

Armed Forces that are related to that exposure, to establish an advisory board on such health conditions, and for other purposes.

S. 928

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 928, a bill to reauthorize the World Trade Center Health Program and the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001, and for other purposes.

S. 979

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 979, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 993

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) 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. 1061

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1061, a bill to improve the Federal Pell Grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 1062

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1062, a bill to improve the Federal Pell Grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 1090

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1090, a bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide eligibility for broadcasting facilities to receive certain disaster assistance, and for other purposes.

S. 1099

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1099, a bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to provide States with flexibility in determining the size of employers in the small group market.

At the request of Mr. SCOTT, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1099, *supra*.

S. 1107

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1107, a bill to provide for

an equitable management of summer flounder based on geographic, scientific, and economic data and for other purposes.

S. 1358

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1358, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to inter in national cemeteries individuals who supported the United States in Laos during the Vietnam War era.

S. 1383

At the request of Mr. PERDUE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1383, a bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to subject the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection to the regular appropriations process, and for other purposes.

S. 1512

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1512, a bill to eliminate discrimination and promote women's health and economic security by ensuring reasonable workplace accommodations for workers whose ability to perform the functions of a job are limited by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition.

S. 1523

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1523, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the National Estuary Program, and for other purposes.

S. 1526

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1526, a bill to amend title 10 and title 41, United States Code, to improve the manner in which Federal contracts for construction and design services are awarded, to prohibit the use of reverse auctions for design and construction services procurements, to amend title 31 and 41, United States Code, to improve the payment protections available to construction contractors, subcontractors, and suppliers for work performed, and for other purposes.

S. 1562

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1562, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform taxation of alcoholic beverages.

S. 1566

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Maine

(Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1566, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to require group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans to provide for coverage of oral anticancer drugs on terms no less favorable than the coverage provided for anticancer medications administered by a health care provider.

S. 1589

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1589, a bill to facilitate efficient investments and financing of infrastructure projects and new, long-term job creation through the establishment of an Infrastructure Financing Authority, and for other purposes.

S. 1603

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1603, a bill to actively recruit members of the Armed Forces who are separating from military service to serve as Customs and Border Protection Officers.

S. 1609

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1609, a bill to provide support for the development of middle school career exploration programs linked to career and technical education programs of study.

S. 1659

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor 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. 1711

At the request of Mr. SCOTT, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1711, a bill to provide for a temporary safe harbor from the enforcement of integrated disclosure requirements for mortgage loan transactions under the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 and the Truth in Lending Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1728

At the request of Mr. COATS, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1728, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide equal access to declaratory judgments for organizations seeking tax-exempt status.

S. 1772

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1772, a bill to permit employees to request changes to their work schedules without fear of retaliation and to ensure that employers consider these

requests, and to require employers to provide more predictable and stable schedules for employees in certain occupations with evidence of unpredictable and unstable scheduling practices that negatively affect employees, and for other purposes.

S. 1775

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1775, a bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to accept additional documentation when considering the application for veterans status of an individual who performed service as a coastwise merchant seaman during World War II, and for other purposes.

S. 1819

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1819, a bill to improve security at Armed Forces recruitment centers.

S. 1823

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1823, a bill to safeguard military personnel on Armed Forces military installations by repealing bans on military personnel carrying firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 1831

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1831, a bill to revise section 48 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 1833

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1833, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the child and adult care food program.

S. 1838

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1838, a bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to clarify the treatment of coordinated expenditures as contributions to candidates, and for other purposes.

S. 1842

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1842, a bill to ensure State and local compliance with all Federal immigration detainers on aliens in custody and for other purposes.

S. 1856

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator

from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1856, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for suspension and removal of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs for performance or misconduct that is a threat to public health or safety and to improve accountability of employees of the Department, and for other purposes.

S. 1860

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1860, a bill to protect and promote international religious freedom.

S. 1883

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 1883, a bill to maximize discovery, and accelerate development and availability, of promising childhood cancer treatments, and for other purposes.

S. 1900

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1900, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to allow the Secretary of Education to award job training Federal Pell Grants.

S. 1925

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. RES. 148

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 2612

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2612 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. SULLIVAN:

S. 1944. A bill to require each agency to repeal or amend 1 or more rules be-

fore issuing or amending a rule; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce S. 1944, the RED Tape Act of 2015.

The letters R-E-D stand for Regulations Endanger Democracy. They do, and they are. This bill will help cut burdensome regulations—regulations that I think everybody agrees have been strangling our economy, regulations that many of my colleagues and I and economists around the country and around the world believe are at the heart of why we can't grow the great American economy.

Let me spend a few minutes on the economy, what the regulations are doing, and why I believe this bill is so important and why we are working hard to get bipartisan support for it.

There is a debate going on in this country and on the Senate floor: Are we in decline? Is America in decline? Are our best days behind us? Is China going to own the 21st century the way we did the last century?

Now, I am an optimist. I don't think we are in decline. We don't need to be in decline. Here is the reason why. We don't hear about it much, but when we look and compare the United States to other countries, we have so many comparative advantages. We still have so many comparative advantages.

Imagine the United States is in a global poker game with all the other major nations of the world around the table. We don't hear this much, but relative to other countries, we look at our hand and we hold aces. As a matter of fact, we hold most of the aces. Let me give a few examples.

The high-tech sector. Whether it is Silicon Valley, Massachusetts, places throughout the entire country, we still have the most vibrant, innovative high-tech sector of anyplace in the world, the ability to commercialize ideas with private equity and financing. If you have a good idea, an entrepreneurial idea in America, you can commercialize that, you can take that to market more quickly, more efficiently than any other place in the world.

Our agriculture sector for decades has been probably the most efficient agriculture sector in the world, feeding the world, literally.

Universities. Look at America's universities relative to any other place, any other country. I had the great honor—my oldest daughter of my three teenaged daughters graduated from high school last year. My wife and I took her to a number of universities she was looking at across the country. We have States—Massachusetts, California—that probably have better top research universities just in those States than other countries have in their entire country. In my State of Alaska, we have great universities. It is a huge advantage.

Energy. Once again through American innovation, we are the world's en-

ergy superpower again, the way we used to be, producing more oil, more gas, more renewables than any other country in the world. It is a huge advantage.

Fisheries. We are one of the top countries in the world in terms of the harvest of fisheries, and my State of Alaska is the superpower of American seafood. We harvest more than 50 percent of all seafood in America—a huge advantage for our country.

The military. I don't have to say much more about the military. We have the best, most professional military in the world, probably in the history of the world, unrivaled by any other nation, not even close.

Then even issues like—we talk a lot about immigration and how our system is broken and how the border needs to be secured. Absolutely. But we are still the country of the world that other people of the world want to come to. They want to come here.

I recently attended a naturalization ceremony in Juneau, AK. If you want to take pride in our country, if you want to see something great, go to a naturalization ceremony. See people who have been thinking about becoming an American for most of their lives finally achieving that goal. It will bring tears to your eyes. It brought tears to my eyes.

Then, of course, in terms of comparative advantages, there is our form of government, our Framers, our Constitution—the longest standing constitutional democracy in the world. It certainly is not perfect, but again, relative to other countries, it is a huge advantage.

So, as I mentioned, we have all the aces. In that big global game of poker, we have a great hand. As President Reagan said a couple decades ago, we are "the greatest, freest, strongest nation on earth." And I believe we still are.

But, of course, like all countries, we have challenges. Here is the biggest challenge, I believe: If we have all the aces, if we have all these comparative advantages, why can't we grow our economy anymore? Why can't we create opportunities for young college graduates?

Our gross domestic product shrunk the first quarter of this year for the third time in the last 9 years. That hasn't happened in more than 60 years. From 2011 through 2014, our gross domestic product only grew at a little bit below 2 percent.

The comparative advantage, the growth rate that made our country great from 1790 to 2014—U.S. real GDP growth in real dollars—averaged an annual rate of 3.7 percent—almost 4 percent GDP growth. That is the average for our country's history. That is real, robust American growth. That is what made us great. The Obama administration's average is 1.36 percent per year.

Just last week—and I know this is an issue that you and I have talked a lot about—it was revealed that we now