

EC-3011. A communication from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel for the Division of Regulatory Services, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged; Assistance to States for the Education of Children with Disabilities” (RIN1810-AB16) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3012. A communication from the Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Post-Employment Conflict of Interest Restrictions; Revision of Departmental Component Designations” (RIN3209-AA14) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3013. A communication from the Senior Attorney, Office of Hearings and Appeals, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Hearing Process Concerning Acknowledgment of American Indian Tribes” (RIN1094-AA54) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 16, 2015; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-3014. A communication from the Chair, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to its budget request for fiscal year 2017; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-3015. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone: Giants Enterprises Fireworks Display, San Francisco Bay, San Francisco, CA” (RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2015-0221) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3016. A communication from the Deputy Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Updating Part 1 Competitive Bidding Rules; Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunity of Spectrum Through Incentive Auctions” (FCC 15-80) (WT Doc. No. 14-170) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3017. A communication from the Program Analyst, Office of Managing Director, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2015” (FCC 15-108) (WT Doc. No. 15-121) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment:

S. 2078. An original bill to reauthorize the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, and for other purposes.

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. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 2071. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modernize payments for ambulatory surgical centers under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mrs. McCASKILL):

S. 2072. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a program under which the Administrator shall defer the designation of an area as a nonattainment area for purposes of the 8-hour ozone national ambient air quality standard if the area achieves and maintains certain standards under a voluntary early action compact plan; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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

S. 2073. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7715 Post Road in North Kingstown, Rhode Island, as the “Melvoid J. Benson Post Office Building”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 2074. A bill to prohibit paying Members of Congress during periods during which a Government shutdown is in effect, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BENNET, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. FRANKEN, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 2075. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high cost employer-sponsored health coverage and to express the sense of the Senate that the resulting revenue loss should be offset; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2076. A bill to establish a task force to review policies and measures to promote, and to develop best practices for, reduction of short-lived climate pollutants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. TOOMEY:

S. 2077. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to clarify the ability to request consumer reports in certain cases to establish and enforce child support payments and awards; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CORKER:

S. 2078. An original bill to reauthorize the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Foreign Relations; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. CORKER (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2079. A bill to reauthorize the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 2080. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to enhance pipeline safety, to provide communities with access to improved information concerning the equip-

ment and operations of pipeline facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. Kaine, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. REED, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. COONS, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. WARNER):

S. Res. 267. A resolution expressing support for the continuation of the Federal Perkins Loan program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. UDALL, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. Res. 268. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the Syrian refugee crisis; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. REED, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. NELSON, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. KING, Mr. COONS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. Res. 269. A resolution designating the week of September 19 through September 26, 2015, as “National Estuaries Week”; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. Res. 270. A resolution designating September 2015 as “Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Month”; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 311

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 311, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to address and take action to prevent bullying and harassment of students.

S. 334

At the request of Mr. SASSE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 334, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions.

S. 571

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 571, a bill to amend the Pilot’s Bill of Rights to facilitate appeals and to apply to other certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, to require the revision of the third class medical certification regulations issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 613

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) were added as cosponsors 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 Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) 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. 697

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 697, a bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to reauthorize and modernize that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 740

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 740, a bill to improve the coordination and use of geospatial data.

S. 771

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 771, a bill to emphasize manufacturing in engineering programs by directing the National Institute of Standards and Technology, in coordination with other appropriate Federal agencies including the Department of Defense, Department of Energy, and National Science Foundation, to designate United States manufacturing universities.

S. 799

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

S. 857

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 857, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of an initial comprehensive care plan for Medicare beneficiaries newly diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, and for other purposes.

S. 865

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) was added as a cosponsor of S. 865, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the disability compensation evaluation procedure of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for veterans with mental health conditions related to military sexual trauma, and for other purposes.

S. 928

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from West

Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. McCASKILL) were added as cosponsors 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. 1059

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1059, a bill to provide Dreamer students with access to student financial aid.

S. 1099

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. McCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor 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 Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1099, *supra*.

S. 1169

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1169, a bill to reauthorize and improve the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, and for other purposes.

S. 1193

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1193, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent and expand the temporary minimum credit rate for the low-income housing tax credit program.

S. 1212

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1212, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes.

S. 1214

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1214, a bill to prevent human health threats posed by the consumption of equines raised in the United States.

S. 1302

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1302, a bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to provide leave because of the death of a son or daughter.

S. 1473

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1473, a bill to authorize the appropriation of funds to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for conducting

or supporting research on firearms safety or gun violence prevention.

S. 1493

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1493, a bill to provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2015, in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 1539

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1539, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish a permanent, nationwide summer electronic benefits transfer for children program.

S. 1555

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1555, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Filipino veterans of World War II, in recognition of the dedicated service of the veterans during World War II.

S. 1711

At the request of Mr. SCOTT, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) 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. 1831

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor 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 (Ms. CANTWELL) 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. 1856

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor 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. 1867

At the request of Mr. SHELBY, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr.

PORTMAN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1867, a bill to protect children from exploitation by providing advance notice of intended travel by registered sex offenders outside the United States to the government of the country of destination, requesting foreign governments to notify the United States when a known sex offender is seeking to enter the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1878

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1878, a bill to extend the pediatric priority review voucher program.

S. 1919

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) were added as cosponsors of 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.

S. 1966

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1966, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require alternative options for program delivery.

S. 1977

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1977, a bill to provide family members and close associates of an individual who they fear is a danger to himself, herself, or others new tools to prevent gun violence.

S. 1982

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1982, a bill to authorize a Wall of Remembrance as part of the Korean War Veterans Memorial and to allow certain private contributions to fund the Wall of Remembrance.

S. 2015

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2015, a bill to clarify the treatment of two or more employers as joint employers under the National Labor Relations Act.

S. 2022

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2022, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the amount of special pension for Medal of Honor recipients, and for other purposes.

S. 2032

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) and the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) were added as cosponsors of S. 2032, a bill to adopt the bison as the national mammal of the United States.

S. 2035

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 2035, a bill to provide for the compensation of Federal employees affected by a lapse in appropriations.

S. 2042

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2042, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to strengthen protections for employees wishing to advocate for improved wages, hours, or other terms or conditions of employment and to provide for stronger remedies for interference with these rights, and for other purposes.

S. 2066

At the request of Mr. SASSE, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2066, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion.

S. 2067

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2067, a bill to establish EUREKA Prize Competitions to accelerate discovery and development of disease-modifying, preventive, or curative treatments for Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, to encourage efforts to enhance detection and diagnosis of such diseases, or to enhance the quality and efficiency of care of individuals with such diseases.

S.J. RES. 21

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 21, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

S.J. RES. 22

At the request of Mrs. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 22, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency relating

to the definition of "waters of the United States" under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

S. RES. 116

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 116, a resolution providing for free and fair elections in Burma.

S. RES. 224

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 224, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the area between the intersections of International Drive, Northwest and Van Ness Street, Northwest and International Drive, Northwest and International Place, Northwest in Washington, District of Columbia, should be designated as "Liu Xiaobo Plaza".

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 224, *supra*.

S. RES. 251

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 251, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the congressional review provision of the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015 does not apply to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action announced on July 14, 2015, because the President failed to transmit the entire agreement as required by such Act, and that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action would only preempt existing Iran sanctions laws as "the supreme Law of the Land" if ratified by the Senate as a treaty with the concurrence of two thirds of the Senators present pursuant to Article II, section 2, clause 2, of the Constitution or if Congress were to enact new implementing legislation that supersedes the mandatory statutory sanctions that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action announced on July 14, 2015, purports to supersede.

S. RES. 262

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 262, a resolution to support the empowerment of women and urge countries to #FreeThe20.

S. RES. 266

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 266, a resolution designating September 2015 as "National Kinship Care Month".

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 267—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE FEDERAL PERKINS LOAN PROGRAM

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. Kaine, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. REED of Rhode Island, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. COONS, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. WARNER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 267

Whereas the Federal Perkins Loan program is the longest running Federal student loan program in the United States, created in 1958 as the National Defense Student Loan Program and later called the National Direct Loan Program;

Whereas Federal Perkins loans are efficient, need-based, low-interest loans that serve 500,000 low-income college students with high need at approximately 1,500 colleges and universities each year;

Whereas Federal Perkins loans have favorable terms for students, including—

(1) interest is not charged while a student is in school;

(2) the interest rate is low and fixed; and

(3) a borrower may have all or part of a Federal Perkins loans cancelled if the borrower undertakes certain public service jobs for a period of 1 to 5 years;

Whereas participating colleges and universities share the risk of the Federal Perkins Loan Program because the colleges and universities provide a 1/3 match to Federal capital contributions and loans are made using funds repaid by previous borrowers;

Whereas Federal Perkins loans feature the human touch of campus-based servicing, which allows on-campus administrators to provide Federal Perkins borrowers with 1-on-1 service;

Whereas Federal Perkins loans have made higher education possible for millions of people of the United States; and

Whereas without Federal Perkins loans, thousands of people in the United States will lose the chance at a higher education and a better life: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate strongly supports the continuation of the Federal Perkins Loan program in order to provide educational opportunities to future generations of students who need low-cost financing to make their dreams of higher education possible.

SENATE RESOLUTION 268—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. UDALL, and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 268

Whereas the Syrian conflict has driven more than 7,500,000 Syrians to relocate within Syria, more than 4,000,000 Syrian to flee as

refugees to neighboring countries, and hundreds of thousands of Syrians to seek asylum in Europe;

Whereas Syria's neighbors are on the front line of the crisis, and Jordan, Turkey, and Lebanon in particular are currently hosting millions of refugees, resulting in tremendous social and economic impacts;

Whereas Europe is facing its worst refugee crisis since World War II;

Whereas members of the international community have a moral responsibility to provide assistance to Syrian refugees, as well as a national security interest in addressing both the insecurity that is driving Syrians from their homes and the spillover effects from that conflict;

Whereas all members of the international community, including regional powers, should contribute substantially to the humanitarian effort so as to avoid shortfalls like those experienced by the World Food Programme, which has been forced to reduce its assistance to refugees.

Whereas the European Union has agreed to resettle 120,000 of the refugees who have reached frontline European nations—an important first step in implementing a comprehensive European refugee policy;

Whereas the Governments of Germany and Sweden, among others, have shown great generosity towards Syrian refugees;

Whereas the United States Government remains the largest contributor to the humanitarian effort in Syria;

Whereas the United States Government will accept at least 10,000 Syrian refugees next year, marking a significant increase from the approximately 1,500 admitted since the conflict began; and

Whereas the United States Government should continue to rigorously employ its existing robust and thorough screening process for refugees to effectively mitigate any potential security threats: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the scale and complexity of the Syrian refugee crisis and the need for the international community to work together to provide resources and capacity to aid refugees;

(2) recognizes the generosity and humanitarian commitment of Syria's neighbors who have worked to absorb the vast majority of refugees, as well as the European nations who have made commitments to share in the refugee resettlement effort;

(3) welcomes the President's decision to admit at least 10,000 Syrian refugees in 2016, and to increase the overall number of refugees received by the United States to 85,000 in 2016 and 100,000 in 2017, as an important continuation of United States humanitarian efforts; and

(4) recognizes that the refugee crisis is a symptom of the broader conflict in Syria, the persecution of persons based on identity groups, including Christians, Yezidis, Turkmen, and Kurds, and instability in the Middle East and North Africa, and that efforts to resolve those challenges are a necessary component of any plan to address the refugee crisis.

SENATE RESOLUTION 269—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 19 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 26, 2015, AS 'NATIONAL ESTUARIES WEEK'

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. REED, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. NELSON, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. BALDWYN, Mr. KING, Mr. COONS, Mr. BROWN,

Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 269

Whereas the estuary regions of the United States constitute a significant share of the economy of the United States, with as much as 42 percent of the gross domestic product of the United States generated in coastal shoreline counties;

Whereas the population of coastal shoreline counties in the United States increased by 39 percent from 1970 to 2010 and is projected to continue to increase;

Whereas not fewer than 1,900,000 jobs in the United States are supported by marine tourism and recreation;

Whereas the commercial fishing, recreational fishing, and seafood industries rely on healthy estuaries and directly support 1,681,000 jobs in the United States;

Whereas in 2012—

(1) commercial fish landings generated \$5,100,000,000; and

(2) recreational anglers—

(A) took more than 70,000,000 fishing trips; and

(B) spent \$24,600,000,000;

Whereas estuaries provide vital habitats for countless species of fish and wildlife, including many species that are listed as threatened or endangered species;

Whereas estuaries provide critical ecosystem services that protect human health and public safety, including water filtration, flood control, shoreline stabilization, erosion prevention, and the protection of coastal communities during hurricanes and storms;

Whereas the United States has lost more than 110,000,000 acres of wetland, or 50 percent of the wetland of the United States, since the first European settlers arrived;

Whereas some bays in the United States that were once filled with fish and oysters have become dead zones filled with excess nutrients, chemical wastes, harmful algae, and marine debris;

Whereas changes in sea level can affect estuarine water quality and estuarine habitats;

Whereas the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.) provides that the policy of the United States is to preserve, protect, develop, and, if possible, restore or enhance the resources of the coastal zone of the United States, including estuaries, for current and future generations;

Whereas 24 coastal and Great Lakes States and territories of the United States operate a National Estuary Program or contain a National Estuarine Research Reserve;

Whereas scientific study leads to a better understanding of the benefits of estuaries to human and ecological communities;

Whereas the Federal Government, State, local, and tribal governments, national and community organizations, and individuals work together to effectively manage the estuaries of the United States;

Whereas estuary restoration efforts restore natural infrastructure in local communities in a cost-effective manner, helping to create jobs and reestablish the natural functions of estuaries that yield countless benefits; and

Whereas the week of September 19 through September 26, 2015, is recognized as "National Estuaries Week" to increase awareness among all people of the United States, including Federal Government and State and local government officials, about the importance of healthy estuaries and the need to protect and restore estuaries: Now, therefore, be it