

streamline the legal immigration system for talented STEM students, entrepreneurs, and business. These actions will raise average wages for all American workers and reduce the deficit. But this is only a first step toward real reform, and as I have said before, the Congress should act on the more comprehensive reform that only changes in the law can provide. Independent economists say immigration reform will grow our economy and shrink our deficits by almost \$1 trillion over 20 years. It is time to fix our broken system and help grow our economy by passing comprehensive immigration reform.

The Budget also builds on the progress we have made ensuring that every American has the peace of mind that comes with quality, affordable health insurance. The Affordable Care Act has helped to provide millions more Americans get covered. It has forced insurance companies to play by the rules by prohibiting discrimination for pre-existing conditions and eliminating lifetime insurance caps. It has also helped to put our Nation on a more sustainable fiscal path by slowing the growth of health care costs. The Budget includes additional reforms and cost saving proposals to continue encouraging high-quality and efficient health care.

This Budget shows what we can do if we invest in America's future and commit ourselves to an economy that rewards hard work, generates rising incomes, and allows everyone to share in the prosperity of a growing America. It lays out a strategy to strengthen our middle class, and help America's hard-working families get ahead in a time of relentless economic and technological change.

Fifteen years into this new century, and six years after the darkest days of the financial crisis, we have picked ourselves up, dusted ourselves off, and begun again the work of remaking America. We've laid a new foundation. A brighter future is ours to write. This Budget will help us begin this new chapter together.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 2, 2015.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

S. 338. A bill to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

S. 339. A bill to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 entirely.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-499. A communication from the Director, National Institute of Food and Agri-

culture, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities (HSACU)" (RIN0524-AA39) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 28, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-500. A communication from the Acting Chief of the Endangered Species Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Adding 20 Coral Species to the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife" (RIN1018-BA63) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 27, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-501. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Department of Homeland Security Privacy Office 2014 Annual Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-502. A communication from the Deputy Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Closed-Circuit Escape Respirators; Extension of Transition Period" (RIN0920-AA60) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 28, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-503. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report on H-1B Petitions" for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-504. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2014 Data Mining Report to Congress"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 327. A bill to provide for auditable financial statements for the Department of Defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. LEE, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 328. A bill to amend the Trademark Act of 1946 to provide for the registration of marks consisting of a flag, coat of arms, or other insignia of the United States, or any State or local government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 329. A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of the Farmington River and Salmon Brook in the State of Connecticut as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

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; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. UDALL, Mr. BENNET, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 331. A bill to amend the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act to improve compensation for workers involved in uranium mining, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 332. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make permanent the extension of the Medicare-dependent hospital (MDH) program and the increased payments under the Medicare low-volume hospital program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. LEE, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. VITTER):

S. 333. A bill to require that any debt limit increase be balanced by equal spending cuts over the next decade; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. ENZI, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. LEE, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. TOOMEY):

S. 334. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BURR, Mr. WARNER, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 335. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve 529 plans; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. VITTER, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. PAUL, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. HATCH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. PERDUE, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. MORAN, Mr. COATS, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. FLAKE, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. DAINES, Mr. THUNE, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BURR, Mr. LEE, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. COTTON, Mr. SASSE, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. 336. A bill to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 entirely; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 337. A bill to improve the Freedom of Information Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 338. A bill to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund; read the first time.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. VITTER, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. PAUL, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. HATCH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. PERDUE, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. MORAN, Mr. COATS, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. FLAKE, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. DAINES, Mr. THUNE, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BURR, Mr. LEE, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. ROBERTS,

Mr. COTTON, Mr. SASSE, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 339. A bill to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 entirely; read the first time.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. Res. 61. A resolution honoring the life and legacy of Peggy Charren; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself, Mr. THUNE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PETERS, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. UDALL):

S. Res. 62. A resolution designating the week beginning on February 8, 2015, as "National Tribal Colleges and Universities Week"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 167

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) 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. 176

At the request of Mr. REID, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 176, a bill to advance integrated water management and development through innovation, resiliency, conservation, and efficiency in the 21st century, and for other purposes.

S. 197

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) were added as cosponsors of S. 197, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to award grants to States to improve delivery of high-quality assessments, and for other purposes.

S. 198

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

(Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 198, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules relating to inverted corporations.

S. 207

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) were added as cosponsors 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. 240

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 240, a bill to promote competition, to preserve the ability of local governments to provide broadband capability and services, and for other purposes.

S. 257

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors of S. 257, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to physician supervision of therapeutic hospital outpatient services.

S. 258

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) 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. 269

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 269, a bill to expand sanctions imposed with respect to Iran and to impose additional sanctions with respect to Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 270

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 270, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to revise the definition of spouse for purposes of veterans benefits in recognition of new State definitions of spouse, and for other purposes.

S. 273

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 273, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the intentional discrimination of a person or organization by an employee of the Internal Revenue Service.

S. 274

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was

added as a cosponsor of S. 274, a bill to prohibit the Department of the Treasury from assigning tax statuses to organizations based on their political beliefs and activities.

S. 293

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 293, a bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to establish a procedure for approval of certain settlements.

S. 314

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) 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. 316

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 316, a bill to amend the charter school program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

S. 322

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 322, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain compensation received by public safety officers and their dependents from gross income.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BURR, Mr. WARNER, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 335. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve 529 plans; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I am glad to be joined by Senator CASEY of Pennsylvania in introducing bipartisan legislation to improve upon the already immensely successful college 529 savings programs. Those are savings plans to go to college. The 529 plans have helped millions earn a college degree without piling up a mountain of debt. These plans have long had strong bipartisan support, and I am glad the introduction of this bill today continues that tradition.

Given the bipartisan nature of 529 plans, it came as a shock to me, and I am sure to most of my colleagues, when the President put forth a proposal that would undermine years of hard work toward making savings for college as accessible as it is today. College savings vehicles, we now know by the Tax Code section—that is where section 529 comes from—were first started by States in the late 1980s. However, it was only after a bipartisan effort led by then-Senator Bob Graham of Florida and Senator MCCONNELL,