

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. REID, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. TESTER, Mr. DAINES, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. Res. 376. A resolution designating the first week of April 2016 as "National Asbestos Awareness Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. Con. Res. 32. A concurrent resolution recognizing the soldiers of the 14th Quartermaster Detachment of the United States Army Reserve, who were killed or wounded in their barracks by an Iraqi SCUD missile attack in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, during Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the attack; to the Committee on Armed Services.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 239

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 239, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, with respect to apportionments under the Airport Improvement Program, and for other purposes.

S. 386

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 386, a bill to limit the authority of States to tax certain income of employees for employment duties performed in other States.

S. 391

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) were added as cosponsors of S. 391, a bill to preserve and protect the free choice of individual employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, or to refrain from such activities.

S. 524

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) were added as cosponsors of S. 524, a bill to authorize the Attorney General to award grants to address the national epidemics of prescription opioid abuse and heroin use.

S. 553

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 553, a bill to marshal resources to undertake a concerted, transformative effort that seeks to bring an end to modern slavery, and for other purposes.

S. 607

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 607, a bill to provide for a five-year extension of the Medicare rural community hospital demonstration program.

S. 1500

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr.

FLAKE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1500, a bill to clarify Congressional intent regarding the regulation of the use of pesticides in or near navigable waters, and for other purposes.

S. 1555

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) 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. 1607

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1607, a bill to affirm the authority of the President to require independent regulatory agencies to comply with regulatory analysis requirements applicable to executive agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 1697

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1697, a bill to provide an exception from certain group health plan requirements to allow small businesses to use pre-tax dollars to assist employees in the purchase of policies in the individual health insurance market, and for other purposes.

S. 1865

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1865, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to eating disorders, and for other purposes.

S. 1890

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) were added as cosponsors of S. 1890, a bill to amend chapter 90 of title 18, United States Code, to provide Federal jurisdiction for the theft of trade secrets, and for other purposes.

S. 1944

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1944, a bill to require each agency to repeal or amend 1 or more rules before issuing or amending a rule.

S. 2173

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2173, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to mental health services under the Medicare program.

S. 2218

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2218, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain amounts paid for physical activity, fitness, and exercise as amounts paid for medical care.

S. 2373

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2373, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of certain lymphedema compression treatment items as items of durable medical equipment.

S. 2437

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2437, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the burial of the cremated remains of persons who served as Women's Air Forces Service Pilots in Arlington National Cemetery, and for other purposes.

S. 2484

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2484, a bill to amend titles XVIII and XI of the Social Security Act to promote cost savings and quality care under the Medicare program through the use of telehealth and remote patient monitoring services, and for other purposes.

S. 2539

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2539, a bill to amend the Social Security Act to provide for mandatory funding, to ensure that the families that have infants and toddlers, have a family income of not more than 200 percent of the applicable Federal poverty guideline, and need child care have access to high-quality infant and toddler child care by the end of fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes.

S. 2557

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2557, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to repeal the suspension of eligibility for grants, loans, and work assistance for drug-related offenses.

S. 2570

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2570, a bill to amend the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 to provide for regulatory impact analyses for certain rules and consideration of the least burdensome regulatory alternative, and for other purposes.

S. 2574

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2574, a bill to amend title IV of the Social Security Act to require States to adopt a centralized electronic system to help expedite the placement of children in foster care or guardianship, or for adoption, across State lines, and to provide grants to aid States in developing such a system, and for other purposes.

S. 2579

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2579, a bill to provide additional support to ensure safe drinking water.

S. CON. RES. 4

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 4, a concurrent resolution supporting the Local Radio Freedom Act.

S. RES. 368

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 368, a resolution supporting efforts by the Government of Colombia to pursue peace and the end of the country's enduring internal armed conflict and recognizing United States support for Colombia at the 15th anniversary of Plan Colombia.

S. RES. 372

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 372, a resolution celebrating Black History Month.

S. RES. 373

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 373, a resolution recognizing the historical significance of Executive Order 9066 and expressing the sense of the Senate that policies that discriminate against any individual based on the actual or perceived race, ethnicity, national origin, or religion of that individual would be a repetition of the mistakes of Executive Order 9066 and contrary to the values of the United States.

AMENDMENT NO. 3308

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3308 intended to be proposed to S. 2012, an original bill to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BARRASSO:

S. 2580. A bill to establish the Indian Education Agency to streamline the administration of Indian education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about legislation that will streamline and modernize the Bureau of Indian Education.

The Bureau of Indian Education school system includes 183 elementary and secondary schools, and it serves roughly 48,000 students. Part of the school system falls under a cumbersome bureaucracy burdened with

needless red tape. This has led to staffing and administrative issues at these schools, as well as problems with neglect at the facilities themselves. A lack of defined leadership at the Bureau of Indian Education has led to schools falling through the cracks. In the past 36 years, there have been 33 Bureau of Indian Education directors. Stability and clear structure are needed.

Last May, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, which I chair, held an oversight hearing on this topic. We heard testimony from Government Accountability Office officials that more accountability is needed at the Bureau of Indian Education to help students succeed.

That is why I am introducing the Reforming American Indian Standards of Education—or RAISE—Act. The RAISE Act separates the functions of the Bureau of Indian Education from the Bureau of Indian Affairs into an independent agency under the Department of the Interior. This agency would be led by a president-appointed and Senate-confirmed director and two assistant directors. Together, this leadership team will oversee the administration of Indian Education, curriculum for the schools and school-facilities management.

The RAISE Act will create better accountability for all. By having a leadership team that tribes can directly address for their school's needs, Indian students attending these schools will have a greater voice. The current Indian school system is managed in such a fragmented and complicated manner that it has failed students for many years. These students are our future, and they deserve our best efforts to address their educational needs.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2580

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Reforming American Indian Standards of Education Act of 2016" or the "RAISE Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) AGENCY.—The term "Agency" means the Indian Education Agency established by section 3(a).

(2) ASSISTANT DIRECTOR.—The term "Assistant Director" means, as applicable—

(A) the Assistant Director of Education Curriculum described in section 3(c)(1); or

(B) the Assistant Director of Facilities Management described in section 3(c)(2).

(3) DEPARTMENT.—The term "Department" means the Department of the Interior.

(4) DIRECTOR.—The term "Director" means the Director of Indian Education described in section 3(b)(1).

(5) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term "Indian tribe" has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

(6) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established within the Department an independent agency to be known as the "Indian Education Agency".

(b) DIRECTOR.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of the Agency shall be the Director of Indian Education.

(2) APPOINTMENT.—The Director shall be appointed by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(3) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—The Director shall be—

(A) appointed for a term of 6 years; and

(B) eligible for reappointment for an unlimited number of terms.

(4) REMOVAL.—The Director may be removed by the President before the expiration of the term of the Director only for cause.

(5) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the position of Director shall not affect the functions or authorities of the Agency, but shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(c) ASSISTANT DIRECTORS.—

(1) ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION CURRICULUM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—There shall be in the Agency an Assistant Director of Education Curriculum, who shall be appointed by the Director.

(B) DUTIES.—The Assistant Director shall be responsible for the functions of the Agency—

(i) relating to education curriculum; and

(ii) that the Director may delegate to the Assistant Director.

(2) ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES MANAGEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—There shall be in the Agency an Assistant Director of Facilities Management, who shall be appointed by the Director.

(B) DUTIES.—The Assistant Director shall be responsible for the functions of the Agency—

(i) relating to facilities management; and

(ii) that the Director may delegate to the Assistant Director.

SEC. 4. TERMINATION OF BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION; TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS.

(a) TERMINATION OF BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION.—Effective beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Bureau of Indian Education (including any predecessor office described in Federal law) is terminated.

(b) TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any function or authority relating to Indian education that, as of the day before the date of enactment of this Act, was performed or carried out by the Secretary or any bureau, office, or other unit of the Department is transferred to the Director.

(2) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any other Federal law to the Secretary, the Department, or any bureau, office, or other unit of the Department with respect to the functions or authorities transferred under paragraph (1) is deemed to refer to the Director or the Agency, as appropriate.

SEC. 5. REPORTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Director, in consultation with affected Indian tribes, shall prepare a report describing the implementation of this Act, including—

(1) the activities of the Agency;

(2) an assessment of the effectiveness of this Act; and

(3) recommendations for legislation to improve the functioning of the Agency.

(b) SUBMISSION.—The Director shall submit each report described in subsection (a) to—