

S. 598. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an above-the-line deduction for child care expenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 599. A bill to redesignate the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore as the "Indiana Dunes National Park", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 600. A bill to require rulemaking by the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to address considerations in evaluating the need for public and individual disaster assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. REED, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 601. A bill to ensure that significantly more students graduate college with the international knowledge and experience essential for success in today's global economy through the establishment of the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program in the Department of Education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. CARPER):

S. 602. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include automated fire sprinkler system retrofits as section 179 property and classify certain automated fire sprinkler system retrofits as 15-year property for purposes of depreciation; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BENNET:

S. 603. A bill for the relief of Jeanette Vizguerra-Ramirez; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. DAINES, and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 604. A bill to allow certain State permitting authority to encourage expansion of broadband service to rural communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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

S. 605. A bill to amend the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to discourage litigation against the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management relating to land management projects; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. NELSON (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 606. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prevent taxpayer identity theft and tax refund fraud, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S.J. Res. 37. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Energy relating to "Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedures for Compressors"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. NELSON (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Res. 85. A resolution calling on the Government of Iran to fulfill repeated promises of assistance in the case of Robert Levinson, the longest held United States civilian in our Nation's history; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. TESTER, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. REED, Ms. WARREN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. CASEY):

S. Res. 86. A resolution recognizing the contributions of AmeriCorps members and alumni to the lives of the people of the United States; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 116

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 116, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit veterans who have a service-connected, permanent disability rated as total to travel on military aircraft in the same manner and to the same extent as retired members of the Armed Forces entitled to such travel.

S. 129

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 129, a bill to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes.

S. 200

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 200, a bill to prohibit the conduct of a first-use nuclear strike absent a declaration of war by Congress.

S. 261

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 261, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to improve and clarify certain disclosure requirements for restaurants and similar retail food establishments, and to amend the authority to bring proceedings under section 403A.

S. 264

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 264, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow charitable organizations to make statements relating to political campaigns if such statements are made in ordinary course of carrying out its tax exempt purpose.

S. 379

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cospon-

sor of S. 379, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the five month waiting period for disability insurance benefits under such title for individuals with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

S. 413

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 413, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to prohibit prescription drug plan sponsors and MA-PD organizations under the Medicare program from retroactively reducing payment on clean claims submitted by pharmacies.

S. 419

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 419, a bill to require adequate reporting on the Public Safety Officers' Benefits program, and for other purposes.

S. 438

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 438, a bill to encourage effective, voluntary investments to recruit, employ, and retain men and women who have served in the United States military with annual Federal awards to employers recognizing such efforts, and for other purposes.

S. 482

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 482, 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. 488

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 488, a bill to increase the threshold for disclosures required by the Securities and Exchange Commission relating to compensatory benefit plans, and for other purposes.

S. 543

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 543, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to include in each contract into which the Secretary enters for necessary services authorities and mechanism for appropriate oversight, and for other purposes.

S. 544

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 544, a bill to amend Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 to modify the termination date for the Veterans Choice Program, and for other purposes.

S. 546

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 546, a bill to reduce temporarily the royalty required to be paid for sodium produced on Federal lands, and for other purposes.

S. 569

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 569, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to provide consistent and reliable authority for, and for the funding of, the Land and Water Conservation Fund to maximize the effectiveness of the Fund for future generations, and for other purposes.

S. 578

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 578, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide requirements for agency decision making based on science.

S. 579

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 579, a bill to require agencies to publish an advance notice of proposed rule making for major rules.

S. 582

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 582, a bill to reauthorize the Office of Special Counsel, and for other purposes.

S. 584

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 584, a bill to amend chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the Regulatory Flexibility Act), to ensure complete analysis of potential impacts on small entities of rules, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 27

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 27, a joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to "Clarification of Employer's Continuing Obligation to Make and Maintain an Accurate Record of Each Recordable Injury and Illness".

S.J. RES. 28

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 28, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency relating to accidental release prevention requirements of risk management programs under the Clean Air Act.

S.J. RES. 32

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 32, a joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to savings arrangements established by States for non-governmental employees.

S.J. RES. 33

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 33, a joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to savings arrangements established by qualified State political subdivisions for non-governmental employees.

S. CON. RES. 7

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 7, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that tax-exempt fraternal benefit societies have historically provided and continue to provide critical benefits to the people and communities of the United States.

S. RES. 83

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 83, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the trafficking of illicit fentanyl into the United States from Mexico and China.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Mr. COONS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. KING, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. WARNER, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 591. A bill to expand eligibility for the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to expand benefits available to participants

under such program, to enhance special compensation for members of the uniformed services who require assistance in everyday life, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am once again delighted to join my colleague, Senator PATTY MURRAY, to introduce the Military and Veteran Caregiver Services Improvement Act of 2017. Our bill would greatly expand eligibility for VA caregiver support services by including veterans from all eras, allow veterans to transfer their post 9/11 GI bill benefits to their dependents, expand eligibility for the VA caregivers program to include a wider range of injuries that may have previously gone unrecognized, and provide crucial support for our Nation's caregivers themselves.

In 2014, my former colleague and friend, Senator Elizabeth Dole, commissioned a study by the RAND Corporation to learn more about the military caregiver population and explore common issues experienced by America's caregivers. The experts at RAND found that those caring for our servicemembers and veterans provide nearly \$14 billion worth of unpaid services every year—an incredible cost that would otherwise be passed on to the Nation.

There are more than 5.5 million military caregivers in the United States, and of those, 1.1 million are caring for post-9/11 veterans. These are spouses, parents, children, and other loved ones who have voluntarily put their lives on hold to provide our returning servicemembers with a trusted continuum of care that could not be replicated without them. Many of them will provide this care for years, if not decades, to come.

Tragically, caring for those suffering from the scars of war takes an enormous toll. According to the RAND study, military caregivers face increased instances of mental and physical health problems, chronic absenteeism from work, deteriorating personal relationships, legal and financial troubles, and feelings of isolation. These difficulties are often more pronounced for post-9/11 military caregivers.

Our Nation owes America's veterans our deepest gratitude. Their sacrifices are often very visible. In many cases our veterans have earned medals or awards for their bravery that they can wear proudly on their chest. But our military and veteran caregivers truly are hidden heroes, serving alongside our veterans to provide the love, care, and support they need. Despite their enormous sacrifice, these hidden heroes often do not receive the awards and admiration. That does not mean that they don't deserve it. We must honor our commitment to veterans by answering the call to better support those caring for our wounded, ill, and injured warriors.

Our legislation would help strengthen the services offered to caregivers.