

exceeded the constitutional authority of the office of the President of the United States and the federal courts have, at times, exceeded their authority by issuing decisions on public policy matters reserved to the states in violation of the principles of federalism and separation of powers, all of which have, adversely affected the state and its people; and

Whereas under the authority of art. V, Constitution of the United States; the several states should apply to the United States Congress to call a convention of the states to amend the United States Constitution and adopt a countermand amendment to authorize the states, upon a vote of three-fifths of the state legislatures, to nullify and repeal a federal statute, executive order, judicial decision, regulatory decision by a federal government agency, or government mandate imposed on the states by law that adversely affects the interests of the states, in order to properly exercise the states' constitutional authority to check federal power, preserve state sovereignty, and protect the rights of the states and the people; and

Whereas the states have the authority to define and limit the agenda of a convention to a single-issue "countermand amendment convention" called for by the states as provided under art. V, Constitution of the United States; and

Whereas the delegates sent by the states to a countermand amendment convention shall have the limited authority to deliberate on and decide whether the countermand amendment, as preapproved by suite legislatures, should be sent back to the state legislatures for ratification; be it

Resolved, That, under art. V, Constitution of the United States, the Alaska State Legislature directs the United States Congress to call a single-issue convention of the states, called a "countermand amendment convention," for the sole purpose of deciding whether the proposed countermand amendment should be sent back to the state legislatures for ratification; and be it further

Resolved, That this application constitutes a continuing application in accordance with art. V, Constitution of the United States, until at least two-thirds of the legislatures of the several states have applied for a similar convention of the states; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the legislatures of the other 49 states to apply to the United States Congress to call a single-issue countermand convention of the states under art. V, Constitution of the United States.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Nancy Erickson, Secretary of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and the presiding officers of the legislatures of each of the other 49 states.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 504. A bill to permanently authorize the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Card Program (Rept. No. 115-140).

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 81. A bill to establish an advisory office within the Bureau of Consumer Protection of the Federal Trade Commission to prevent fraud targeting seniors, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-141).

By Mr. GRASSLEY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1311. A bill to provide assistance in abolishing human trafficking in the United States.

S. 1312. A bill to prioritize the fight against human trafficking in the United States.

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. GARDNER (for himself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 1682. A bill to facilitate a national pipeline of spectrum for commercial use, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DONNELLY:

S. 1683. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to reduce the number of members of the Federal Election Commission from 6 to 5, to revise the method of selection and terms of service of members of the Commission, to distribute the powers of the Commission between the Chair and the remaining members, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Ms. HIRONO:

S. 1684. A bill to establish a position of Science Laureate of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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

S. 1685. A bill to require Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to establish procedures for considering certain credit scores in making a determination whether to purchase a residential mortgage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 1686. A bill to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to provide for management of red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. 1687. A bill to establish the Financing Energy Efficient Manufacturing Program at the Department of Energy to provide financial assistance to promote energy efficiency and onsite renewable technologies in manufacturing facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINA, Mr. KING, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. McCASKILL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. STABENOW,

Mr. UDALL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 1688. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate fair prescription drug prices under part D of the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 1689. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to provide for a new rule regarding the application of the Act to marihuana, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 1690. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide greater support to students with dependents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 1691. A bill to provide minimal cybersecurity operational standards for Internet-connected devices purchased by Federal agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 1692. A bill to authorize the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. McCAIN, Mrs. McCASKILL, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. BLUNT, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Mr. NELSON, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. HOEVEN, and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. 1693. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to clarify that section 230 of that Act does not prohibit the enforcement against providers and users of interactive computer services of Federal and State criminal and civil law relating to sex trafficking; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. COONS):

S. 1694. A bill to improve quality and accountability for educator preparation programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. UDALL (for himself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 1695. A bill to establish centers of excellence for innovative stormwater control infrastructure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. UDALL:

S. 1696. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to provide for a smart energy and water efficiency management pilot program; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. CORKER, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. COTTON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. SHELBY, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 1697. A bill to condition assistance to the West Bank and Gaza on steps by the Palestinian Authority to end violence and terrorism against Israeli citizens and United States Citizens; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 1698. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the treatment of contributions to Alaska Native Settlement Trusts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. UDALL, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 1699. A bill to lift the trade embargo on Cuba, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. RISCH, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. RUBIO):

S.J. Res. 48. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to parental rights; 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 Mr. McCONNELL (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. Res. 237. A resolution to authorize the production of records by the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. Res. 238. A resolution recognizing the 10th anniversary and honoring the victims of the collapse of the Interstate 35W Mississippi River bridge; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. Res. 239. A resolution congratulating the Pittsburgh Penguins for winning the 2017 Stanley Cup hockey championship; considered and agreed to.

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

S. Res. 240. A resolution congratulating the University of Florida baseball team for winning the 2017 National Collegiate Athletic Association College World Series; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. MANCHIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. TESTER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. THUNE, Mr. MORAN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. HELLER, Mr. NELSON, Mr. DONNELLY, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. Res. 241. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Purple Heart Recognition Day; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 104

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 104, a bill to provide for the

vacating of certain convictions and expungement of certain arrests of victims of human trafficking.

S. 114

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 114, to authorize appropriations and to appropriate amounts for the Veterans Choice Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to improve hiring authorities of the Department, to authorize major medical facility leases, and for other purposes.

S. 194

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 194, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a public health insurance option, and for other purposes.

S. 236

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 236, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform taxation of alcoholic beverages.

S. 256

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 256, a bill to establish the Stop, Observe, Ask, and Respond to Health and Wellness Training pilot program to address human trafficking in the health care system.

S. 322

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) were added as cosponsors of S. 322, a bill to protect victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence from emotional and psychological trauma caused by acts of violence or threats of violence against their pets.

S. 364

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 364, a bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to exempt certain recipients of Department of Agriculture conservation assistance from certain reporting requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 445

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 445, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 690

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 690, a bill to extend the eligibility of redesignated areas as HUBZones from 3 years to 7 years.

S. 697

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 697, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to lower the mileage threshold for deduction in determining adjusted gross income of certain expenses of members of reserve components of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 705

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 705, a bill to amend the National Child Protection Act of 1993 to establish a national criminal history background check system and criminal history review program for certain individuals who, related to their employment, have access to children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 720

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, her name was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 720, a bill to amend the Export Administration Act of 1979 to include in the prohibitions on boycotts against allies of the United States boycotts fostered by international governmental organizations against Israel and to direct the Export-Import Bank of the United States to oppose boycotts against Israel, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 720, *supra*.

S. 796

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 796, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion for employer-provided education assistance to employer payments of student loans.

S. 929

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 929, a bill to improve the HUBZone program.

S. 1038

At the request of Mrs. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1038, a bill to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to submit to Congress a report on the utilization of small businesses with respect to certain Federal contracts.

S. 1118

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1118, a bill to reauthorize the North Korea Human Rights Act of 2004, and for other purposes.

S. 1196

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S.