

Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 1746. A bill to require the Congressional Budget Office to make publicly available the fiscal and mathematical models, data, and other details of computations used in cost analysis and scoring; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. NELSON:

S. 1747. A bill to authorize research and recovery activities to provide for the protection, conservation, and recovery of the Florida manatee, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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

S. 1748. A bill to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to promote sustainable conservation and management for the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic fisheries and the communities that rely on them, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 1749. A bill to restore Americans' individual liberty by striking the Federal mandate to purchase insurance; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 1750. A bill to protect American job creation by striking the Federal mandate on employers to offer health insurance; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DONNELLY (for himself, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. PETERS):

S. 1751. A bill to modify the definitions of a mortgage originator, a high-cost mortgage, and a loan originator; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. HELLER (for himself, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. HATCH):

S. 1752. A bill to amend the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to expedite wildfire prevention projects to reduce the risk of wildfire on certain high-risk Federal land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 1753. A bill to amend the S.A.F.E. Mortgage Licensing Act of 2008 to provide a temporary license for loan originators transitioning between employers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. DAINES, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 1754. A bill to reauthorize section 340H of the Public Health Service Act to continue to encourage the expansion, maintenance, and establishment of approved graduate medical residency programs at qualified teaching health centers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE:

S. 1755. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit unsafe operation of unmanned aircraft, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mrs. ERNST):

S. 1756. A bill to improve the processes by which environmental documents are prepared and permits and applications are processed and regulated by Federal departments and agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. HELLER, Mr. SCOTT, and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 1757. A bill to strengthen border security, increase resources for enforcement of immigration laws, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 1758. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to provide requirements for landlords and consumer reporting agencies relating to housing court records, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 1759. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend authorities relating to homeless veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 1760. A bill for the relief of Marco Antonio Reyes; 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. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. LEAHY):

S. Res. 245. A resolution calling on the Government of Iran to release unjustly detained United States citizens and legal permanent resident aliens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. MARKEY):

S. Res. 246. A resolution designating the first week in August 2017 as "World Breastfeeding Week", and designating August 2017 as "National Breastfeeding Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. ISAKSON, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. Res. 247. A resolution designating July 29, 2017, as "Paralympic and Adaptive Sport Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. Res. 248. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that flowers grown in the United States support the farmers, small businesses, jobs, and economy of the United States, that flower farming is an honorable vocation, and designating July as "American Grown Flower Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. Res. 249. A resolution designating September 2017 as "National Child Awareness Month" to promote awareness of charities that benefit children and youth-serving organizations throughout the United States and recognizing the efforts made by those charities and organizations on behalf of children and youth as critical contributions to the future of the United States; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 66

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 66, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of

Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 116

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) 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. 130

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 130, a bill to require enforcement against misbranded milk alternatives.

S. 194

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) 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. 266

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 266, a bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Anwar Sadat in recognition of his heroic achievements and courageous contributions to peace in the Middle East.

S. 384

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 384, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the new markets tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 393

At the request of Mr. SCOTT, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 393, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow employers a credit against income tax for employees who participate in qualified apprenticeship programs.

S. 405

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 405, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide an exclusion from income for student loan forgiveness for students who have died or become disabled.

S. 448

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 448, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for treatment of clinical psychologists as physicians for purposes of furnishing clinical psychologist services under the Medicare program.

S. 474

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 474, 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.

S. 515

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 515, a bill to require the Secretary of Labor to maintain a publicly available list of all employers that relocate a call center overseas, to make such companies ineligible for Federal grants or guaranteed loans, and to require disclosure of the physical location of business agents engaging in customer service communications, and for other purposes.

S. 527

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 527, a bill to improve access to emergency medical services, and for other purposes.

S. 534

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 534, a bill to prevent the sexual abuse of minors and amateur athletes by requiring the prompt reporting of sexual abuse to law enforcement authorities, and for other purposes.

S. 540

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 540, a bill to limit the authority of States to tax certain income of employees for employment duties performed in other States.

S. 581

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 581, a bill to include information concerning a patient's opioid addiction in certain medical records.

S. 591

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 625

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 625, a bill to preserve the integrity of American elections by providing the Attorney General with the investigative tools to identify and prosecute foreign agents who seek to circumvent Federal registration requirements and

unlawfully influence the political process.

S. 654

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 654, a bill to revise section 48 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 754

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 754, a bill to support meeting our Nation's growing cybersecurity workforce needs by expanding the cybersecurity education pipeline.

S. 756

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 756, a bill to reauthorize and amend the Marine Debris Act to promote international action to reduce marine debris, and for other purposes.

S. 794

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 794, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act in order to improve the process whereby Medicare administrative contractors issue local coverage determinations under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 835

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 835, a bill to require the Supreme Court of the United States to promulgate a code of ethics.

S. 926

At the request of Mrs. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 926, a bill to authorize the Global War on Terror Memorial Foundation to establish the National Global War on Terrorism Memorial as a commemorative work in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

S. 967

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 967, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase access to ambulance services under the Medicare program and to reform payments for such services under such program, and for other purposes.

S. 1002

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1002, a bill to enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, and for other purposes.

S. 1113

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1113, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to ensure the safety of cosmetics.

S. 1182

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. STRANGE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1182, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 100th anniversary of The American Legion.

S. 1198

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1198, a bill to protect individuals who are eligible for increased pension under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the basis of need of regular aid and attendance from dishonest, predatory, or otherwise unlawful practices, and for other purposes.

S. 1201

At the request of Mrs. MCCASKILL, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1201, a bill to allow individuals living in areas without qualified health plans offered through an Exchange to have similar access to health insurance coverage as Members of Congress and congressional staff.

S. 1307

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1307, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand eligibility to receive refundable tax credits for coverage under a qualified health plan.

S. 1311

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. 1311, a bill to provide assistance in abolishing human trafficking in the United States.

S. 1312

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1312, a bill to prioritize the fight against human trafficking in the United States.

S. 1357

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1357, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide a standard definition of therapeutic family care services in Medicaid.

S. 1369

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1369, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish an excise tax on certain prescription drugs which have been subject to a price spike, and for other purposes.

S. 1413

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1413, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants to establish teacher leader development programs.

S. 1513

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1513, a bill to reauthorize and amend the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act.

S. 1568

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1568, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of President John F. Kennedy.

S. 1595

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1595, a bill to amend the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 to impose additional sanctions with respect to Hizballah, and for other purposes.

S. 1616

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1616, a bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Bob Dole, in recognition for his service to the nation as a soldier, legislator, and statesman.

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator

from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. STRANGE), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) were added as cosponsors of S. 1616, supra.

S. 1624

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1624, a bill to prohibit the

use of chlorpyrifos on food, and for other purposes.

S. 1666

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1666, a bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue a rule requiring all new passenger motor vehicles to be equipped with a child safety alert system, and for other purposes.

S. 1693

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 1697

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) were added as cosponsors of 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.

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1697, supra.

S. 1706

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1706, a bill to prevent human health threats posed by the consumption of equines raised in the United States.

S. 1729

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1729, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for independent accreditation for dialysis facilities and assurances of high quality surveys.

S. RES. 195

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 195, a resolution recognizing June 20, 2017, as "World Refugee Day".

AMENDMENT NO. 329

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 329 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year

2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 527

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 527 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 528

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 528 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 529

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 529 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 592

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 592 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 750

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 750 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. DAINES, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 1754. A bill to reauthorize section 340H of the Public Health Service Act to continue to encourage the expansion, maintenance, and establishment of approved graduate medical residency programs at qualified teaching health centers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I rise today to introduce legislation with my colleague from Montana, Senator TESTER, that would extend an important program to fund Teaching Health Centers, which support the health and well-being of families in rural and medically underserved communities. I am pleased that Senators COCHRAN, MANCHIN, DAINES, HARRIS, and BOOZMAN, have joined us as cosponsors.

In the background of the health care debate, there is another crisis that looms. We are facing a severe shortage of doctors. By 2025, we will need more than 100,000 new primary care doctors to meet the growing demand for health care services across the Country. The shortage is especially critical in rural and underserved communities, which are often those that have been hit hardest by the opioid epidemic. The most significant shortages are in family medicine, general internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, psychiatry, and dentistry.

These shortages have reached crisis levels in many places. In clinics and health centers in Aroostook County, Maine's northernmost county where I grew up, I hear stories about vacancies forcing Mainers to travel many miles simply to see a primary care doctor or dentist.

For the past six years, one program, the Teaching Health Centers Graduate Medical Education Program, has worked to fill these gaps. This program helps to train medical residents in community-based settings, including low-income, underserved rural and urban neighborhoods. For example, since 2011, the Penobscot Community Health Care Center has trained 31 residents and served more than 15,000 dental patients in Bangor, Maine.

We need to meet people in the communities in which they live and work. This program is training the next generation of physicians, and has produced real results. When compared with traditional Medicare graduate medical education residents, those who train at teaching health centers are significantly more likely to practice primary care and remain in underserved or rural communities. The numbers speak for themselves: 82 percent of Teaching Health Center, or THC, residents choose to practice primary care, compared to 23 percent of traditional Medicare Graduate Medical Education residents; and 55 percent of THC residents

choose to remain in underserved communities, compared to 26 percent of traditional Medicare GME residents.

Teaching health centers are serving Americans from coast to coast. A total of 742 THC residents are serving in 27 states and the District of Columbia. The program is competitive, and trains the best of the best. For each residency position, THC programs receive more than 100 applications. In 2017, THC residents and faculty will provide more than one million primary care medical visits to underserved communities.

Teaching Health Centers have demonstrated a record of success, and it is imperative that we support them. Our legislation would reauthorize the Teaching Health Centers Graduate Medical Education Program for three years. It would also allow new programs to expand within existing centers and the creation of entirely new teaching health centers.

This bill is widely supported by leading community health and physician organizations, including the American Association of Teaching Health Centers, National Association of Community Health Centers, American Academy of Family Physicians, American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, American Osteopathic Association, American Council of OB/GYNs, Society of Teachers of Family Medicine, and Council of Academic Family Medicine. We have also received letters of support from teaching health centers in Maine, Montana, Tennessee, Iowa, Oklahoma, North Carolina, California, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, Washington, Texas, Connecticut, New York, Illinois, Massachusetts, and Idaho.

In the face of nationwide physician shortages, our legislation would provide a solution for communities today and a path forward to train the physicians of tomorrow. I urge all of my colleagues to join in support of this important legislation, the Training the Next Generation of Primary Care Doctors Act of 2017.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the letters be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the letters were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

PENOBSCOT COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE,

August 2, 2017.

Hon. SUSAN COLLINS,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR COLLINS: On behalf of Penobscot Community Health Care's General Practice Dental Residency program, a Teaching Health Center training 3-6 residents a year (with over 28 residents trained since 2011) and serving 15,000 dental patients in Bangor, Maine, I want to express our appreciation for your relentless efforts to develop legislation to continue funding and expand the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) program. We know that you and your staff have worked long and hard with multiple stakeholder organizations, including the American Association of Teaching Health Centers, to create the best possible legislation that will fund