

ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 416. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Career and Technical Education Month; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Mr. COTTON):

S. Con. Res. 34. A concurrent resolution recognizing the rich history, heritage, and strategic importance of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Marshallese population residing in the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

S. Con. Res. 35. A concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medal collectively to the members of the Office of Strategic Services; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 58

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 58, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high cost employer-sponsored health coverage.

S. 168

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 168, a bill to amend and enhance certain maritime programs of the Department of Transportation.

S. 397

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 397, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure fairness in Medicare hospital payments by establishing a floor for the area wage index applied with respect to certain hospitals.

S. 793

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 793, a bill to prohibit sale of shark fins, and for other purposes.

S. 811

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 811, a bill to ensure that organizations with religious or moral convictions are allowed to continue to provide services for children.

S. 834

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 834, a bill to authorize the appropriation of funds to the Centers for Dis-

ease Control and Prevention for conducting or supporting research on firearms safety or gun violence prevention.

S. 1091

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1091, a bill to establish a Federal Task Force to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren.

S. 1278

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the names of the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1278, a bill to provide for the admission of the State of Washington, D.C. into the Union.

S. 1539

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1539, a bill to protect victims of stalking from gun violence.

S. 1589

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1589, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes.

S. 1632

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1632, a bill to establish an additional fund in the Treasury to meet existing statutory obligations to reimburse costs reasonably incurred as a result of the reorganization of broadcast television spectrum, and for other purposes.

S. 1674

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1674, a bill to provide grants for the repair, renovation, and construction of public elementary schools and secondary schools, to establish a school infrastructure bond program, and for other purposes.

S. 1710

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1710, a bill to reduce the Federal budget deficit by closing big oil tax loopholes, and for other purposes.

S. 1879

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1879, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under part B of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 1945

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 1945, a bill to regulate large capacity ammunition feeding devices.

S. 2073

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2073, a bill to establish a vegetation management pilot program on National Forest System land to better protect utility infrastructure from passing wildfire, and for other purposes.

S. 2076

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2076, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the expansion of activities related to Alzheimer's disease, cognitive decline, and brain health under the Alzheimer's Disease and Healthy Aging Program, and for other purposes.

S. 2135

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2135, a bill to enforce current law regarding the National Instant Criminal Background Check System.

S. 2208

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2208, a bill to provide for the issuance of an Alzheimer's Disease Research Semipostal Stamp.

S. 2278

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2278, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide grants to improve health care in rural areas.

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2278, *supra*.

S. 2324

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2324, a bill to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to change certain requirements relating to the capital structure of business development companies, to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise certain rules relating to business development companies, and for other purposes.

S. 2341

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2341, a bill to amend title 38, United

States Code, to improve the processing of veterans benefits by the Department of Veterans Affairs, to limit the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to recover overpayments made by the Department and other amounts owed by veterans to the United States, to improve the due process accorded veterans with respect to such recovery, and for other purposes.

S. 2353

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2353, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to report on the estimated total assets under direct or indirect control by certain senior Iranian leaders and other figures, and for other purposes.

S. 2360

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2360, a bill to provide for the minimum size of crews of freight trains, and for other purposes.

S. 2421

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2421, a bill to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to provide an exemption from certain notice requirements and penalties for releases of hazardous substances from animal waste at farms.

S. 2430

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2430, a bill to provide a permanent appropriation of funds for the payment of death gratuities and related benefits for survivors of deceased members of the uniformed services in event of any period of lapsed appropriations.

S. CON. RES. 7

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) 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. 168

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 168, a resolution supporting respect for human rights and encouraging inclusive governance in Ethiopia.

S. RES. 377

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 377, a resolution recognizing the importance of paying tribute to those individuals who have faith-

fully served and retired from the Armed Forces of the United States, designating April 18, 2018, as "Military Retiree Appreciation Day", and encouraging the people of the United States to honor the past and continued service of military retirees to their local communities and the United States.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. SULLIVAN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. CASSIDY, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 2456. A bill to reauthorize and expand the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I want to address a critical issue today in Westerville, OH, and, frankly, every community I represent in my State and communities all over the country. Today, I want to talk about the opioid epidemic that is gripping our country.

Every State represented in this Chamber has had too many communities devastated, families broken apart, and lives taken by the opioid overdoses. The Centers for Disease Control now tells us more than 63,000 Americans died from drug overdoses in 2016, the last year for which they have records. It also looks like it was worse in 2017. More Americans are dying from drug overdoses than the total number of casualties during the Vietnam war. Every year, more Americans are dying from drug overdoses than the total number of casualties from the Vietnam war. Think about that. It is a staggering statistic.

On average, more than 174 Americans died every single day from a drug overdose in 2016. That is up from 143 Americans in 2015 and 105 Americans in 2010. In other words, it is getting worse, and 2016 was the deadliest year on record. Initial estimates for 2017 suggest it is going to be even deadlier, including in my home State of Ohio.

Opioids—prescription drugs, heroin, and synthetic forms of heroin—are increasingly the reason why. Opioids were involved in about two-thirds of all overdose deaths in 2016. Opioid overdose deaths were five times higher in 2016 than they were just back in 1999. In the past 17 years, we have seen a fivefold increase in these overdose deaths. It is a national epidemic.

It has unfolded in three different waves. It started with prescription drugs, overprescribing of prescription drugs—pain pills. The pill mills we saw in Southern Ohio and around our State exploded about 15 to 20 years ago. Next, there were the heroin deaths. Heroin moved in and spiked as people moved to less expensive and more accessible alternatives than prescription drugs. Now, I hate to tell you, there is a new danger and a threat, and it is deadlier

than ever. It is these synthetic opioids—fentanyl, carfentanil—that have moved into our States, overcoming our law enforcement, and the results have been deadly.

By the way, it is a crisis that does not discriminate. Opioid addiction affects everybody, regardless of age, area code, class, or color. In Ohio, drug addiction and acts committed to support it have now become the No. 1 cause of crime in our communities—probably the same in your community.

Employers, of course, are increasingly pointing to the inability to find workers who can pass a drug test. They can't fill vacant positions. There is new data out with regard to people who are not showing up on the unemployment rolls but have given up looking for work altogether. There are probably 9 million men between 25 and 55 who are considered to be able-bodied who aren't even looking for work. Some really troubling statistics out there indicate that maybe as many as half—one study says 48 percent—of those individuals are taking opioids on a daily basis.

This is affecting all of us. Every aspect of our communities is affected. Everybody has a role to play overcoming this epidemic. There is an urgency coming up with better strategies to turn the tide on addiction. Although I believe progress has been made recently—and it is starting to be made in my State and other States—much more needs to be done and done urgently.

Part of that starts with understanding that addiction is a disease, and it is treatable. Too often it is not treated like that. The appropriate response should include much more aggressive prevention and education, absolutely, and more aggressive law enforcement keeping deadly fentanyl out of our communities through the STOP Act and other means, of course, but we also have to get more effective treatment strategies. We have a couple hundred thousand people in Ohio who are addicted. We need to get them into treatment, including more effective detox, medication-assisted treatment, and longer term recovery. We know, coupled with the right kind of therapy, the right kind of support and help, people can get into recovery and get back to their families, get back to work, and get back to being productive citizens.

We also know recovery results are a lot better with that kind of continuous support. Closing the gaps that occur is key to overcoming addiction. There is a gap between the crisis response, which is often a first responder—like the two brave officers I talked about earlier—finding someone who has overdosed. Often it is firefighters as well providing Narcan, this miracle drug that reverses the effect of the overdose. That is incredibly important to saving lives.

Narcan alone is not sufficient. The key is to get those people into detox and into treatment and longer term recovery. The gaps we have out there between the crisis response and Narcan,