

Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. PETERS):

S. Res. 394. A resolution recognizing January 2018 as National Mentoring Month; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 351

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 351, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for comprehensive student achievement information.

S. 545

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 545, 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. 698

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 698, a bill to establish a national program to identify and reduce losses from landslide hazards, to establish a national 3D Elevation Program, and for other purposes.

S. 732

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 732, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable tax credit against income tax for the purchase of qualified access technology for the blind.

S. 813

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 813, a bill to amend the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, to make it unlawful for a packer to own, feed, or control livestock intended for slaughter.

S. 951

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 951, a bill to reform the process by which Federal agencies analyze and formulate new regulations and guidance documents, and for other purposes.

S. 974

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 974, a bill to promote competition in the market for drugs and biological products by facilitating the timely entry of lower-cost generic and biosimilar versions of those drugs and biological products.

S. 1343

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

1343, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to extend and modify certain charitable tax provisions.

S. 1353

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1353, a bill to require States to automatically register eligible voters to vote in elections for Federal offices, and for other purposes.

S. 1746

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 1899

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 1899, a bill to reauthorize and extend funding for community health centers and the National Health Service Corps.

S. 1917

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1917, a bill to reform sentencing laws and correctional institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 2076

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors 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. 2101

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2101, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the crew of the USS *Indianapolis*, in recognition of their perseverance, bravery, and service to the United States.

S. 2138

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2138, a bill to authorize the creation of a commission to develop voluntary accessibility guidelines for electronic instructional materials and related technologies used in postsecondary education, and for other purposes.

S. 2156

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2156, a bill to amend title XVIII of the

Social Security Act to provide fairness in hospital payments under the Medicare program.

S. 2173

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2173, a bill to amend subpart 2 of part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to extend State court funding for child welfare, and for other purposes.

S. 2194

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2194, a bill to remove a limitation on a prohibition relating to permits for discharges incidental to normal operation of vessels.

S. 2235

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2235, a bill to establish a tiered hiring preference for members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces.

S. 2244

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2244, a bill to create opportunities for women in the aviation industry.

S. 2296

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2296, a bill to increase access to agency guidance documents.

S. 2304

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2304, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to protect veterans from predatory lending, and for other purposes.

S. 2310

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2310, a bill to require the United States Trade Representative to permit the public to submit comments on trade agreement negotiations through the Internet.

S. 2324

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor 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. 2340

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2340, a bill to establish

the Federal Labor-Management Partnership Council.

S. 2345

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2345, a bill to amend the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 to provide additional resources to State and local prosecutors, and for other purposes.

S. 2372

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2372, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide outer burial receptacles for remains buried in National Parks, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 168

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

S. RES. 361

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 361, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States Government shall, both unilaterally and alongside the international community, consider all options for exerting maximum pressure on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), in order to denuclearize the DPRK, protect the lives of United States citizens and allies, and prevent further proliferation of nuclear weapons.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BROWN, Mr. COONS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 2384. A bill to amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to make funding available to 1890 institutions without fiscal year limitation; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Carryover Equity Act of 2018 to eliminate the 20 percent carryover limitation which is an impediment to flexibility and effective financial planning of the 1890s Extension Program. The 1890s Extension Program is administered by the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and is a capacity funding program supporting extension activities at 1890 Land-Grant Universities. Its intent is to increase and strengthen agricultural sciences at the 1890s through the effective integration of education, research and extension programs.

My State is the home of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES), Maryland's only 1890 Land-Grant University and one of the State's four Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). UMES, along with the University of Maryland College Park, form the University of Maryland Extension—a statewide educational organization funded by Federal, State, and local governments that brings research-based knowledge directly to communities throughout the “Old Line” State. The mission of University of Maryland Extension is to educate citizens to apply practical, research-based knowledge to critical issues facing individuals, families, communities, the State of Maryland, and its global partners.

In Maryland, the 1890 Extension Program is headquartered at UMES in Princess Anne, MD and extension programming at the University focuses on 4-H STEM; nutrition and health; seafood technology; small farm outreach; and small ruminant research. The UMES program is targeted to diverse audiences on the agriculturally important Eastern Shore with special emphasis on those with limited resources to help them improve their quality of life and to successfully pursue a career in agriculture.

Mr. President, current law limits the funding amount an 1890 institution may carry over in any fiscal year to 20 percent of the 1890s Extension Program funding received. This prohibition creates significant impediments for 1890 institutions to carry out their mission to deliver programs to customers and clientele and restricts the ability of 1890 institutions to efficiently and effectively manage their funding. No other USDA/NIFA capacity program has a similar 20 percent carryover limitation. By eliminating this 20 percent limitation, via the Carryover Equity Act, the 1890s Extension Program will have the same funding flexibility found in the other major capacity programs administered by NIFA. This bill has the strong support of 1890 institution Presidents as well as the Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities.

I am pleased to be joined in introducing this bill by Senators PERDUE, BROWN, TILLIS, CARDIN, COONS, GRAHAM, MANCHIN and KAINE who, like me, recognize the value 1890 land grant institutions bring to the rural communities of our States and the research and technical support these institutions provide to our socially disadvantaged, and veteran farmer, and rancher constituents with limited resources. I look forward to working together with Senate and House colleagues to see that this important legislation is included in the next Farm Bill.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mrs. ERNST):

S. 2386. A bill to provide additional protections for our veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to raise a very important

issue that is impacting our veterans population. That issue is the systematic denial of these veterans' Second Amendment rights. This comes up in discussions with Iowa veterans, and I have candidly discussed this issue before on the Senate floor.

Today, I am introducing bipartisan legislation, cosponsored by Senator MANCHIN, called the Veterans' Second Amendment Rights Restoration Act of 2018. This bill is being introduced to solve the problem of denying these rights to veterans.

The legislation is about the fidelity of the Constitution and about the fidelity of the Bill of Rights. It is also about due process and fairness for veterans. What this is not about, I want to make clear, is allowing anyone to purchase a firearm who is prohibited to do so under current law or regulations. I want it to be very clear right off the bat so that no one misinterprets this as some effort to let people own firearms who would normally be prohibited.

This legislation is needed because a very disturbing trend has occurred in the past decade. The Veterans Health Administration has been reporting veterans to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System—the national gun ban list—just because these veterans have been determined by the VA to be veterans who require a fiduciary to administer benefit payments. This is a pretty simple proposition that denies veterans their Second Amendment rights. It is that simple, as I just said. A fiduciary's administering benefit payments to a veteran could and does lead to that veteran's being denied Second Amendment rights. Once on the gun list, a veteran is outlawed from owning or possessing firearms.

It is crucial to note that the regulations that the Veterans Health Administration is relying on are from way back in the 1970s. It predates even the National Instant Criminal Background Check System and is long before the Supreme Court held the Second Amendment to be a fundamental, constitutional right. These regulations grant limited authority to determine incompetence only in the context of financial matters.

The regulation reads like this: “Rating agencies have sole authority to make official determinations of competency or incompetency for purposes of: insurance and . . . disbursement of benefits.”

There is nothing wrong with that language, but it is that language that leads to the problems that veterans have with their Second Amendment rights. From this language, it is clear that the core regulatory authority applies to matters of competency for financial purposes. It has nothing to do with regulating who can purchase firearms, but that is exactly what is happening. Veterans are losing their Second Amendment rights because they have people managing their checkbooks. It is that simple. If you cannot handle your finances, you lose your Second Amendment rights.