

S. 834

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 834, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance the national strategy for combating and eliminating tuberculosis, and for other purposes.

S. 846

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 846, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to limit certain rolling stock procurements, and for other purposes.

S. 867

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 867, a bill to protect students of institutions of higher education and the taxpayer investment in institutions of higher education by improving oversight and accountability of institutions of higher education, particularly for-profit colleges, improving protections for students and borrowers, and ensuring the integrity of postsecondary education programs, and for other purposes.

S. 879

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 879, a bill to provide a process for granting lawful permanent resident status to aliens from certain countries who meet specified eligibility requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 894

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 894, a bill to authorize dedicated domestic terrorism offices within the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to analyze and monitor domestic terrorist activity and require the Federal Government to take steps to prevent domestic terrorism.

S. 919

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 919, a bill to reduce regulatory burdens and streamline processes related to commercial space activities, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 5

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 5, a concurrent resolution supporting the Local Radio Freedom Act.

S. RES. 30

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 30, a resolution condemning

efforts to undermine democracy in Hungary and urging President Trump to defend the universal human rights and democratic norms under attack by the Orban government.

S. RES. 119

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 119, a resolution supporting the goals of World Tuberculosis Day to raise awareness about tuberculosis.

S. RES. 120

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 120, a resolution opposing efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel and the Global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement targeting Israel.

S. RES. 123

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 123, a resolution supporting the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and recognizing its 70 years of accomplishments.

AMENDMENT NO. 204

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 204 intended to be proposed to H.R. 268, a bill making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 212

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 212 intended to be proposed to H.R. 268, a bill making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 928. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modernize and improve the Internal Revenue Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I am pleased that my colleague, Finance Committee Ranking Member WYDEN, will be joining me in introducing the Taxpayer First Act of 2019 later today. This legislation seeks to modernize the Internal Revenue Service, improve taxpayers' services, and strengthen taxpayer protections.

The package of IRS reforms we will introduce today is the culmination of years of work by both the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee. It is truly a bi-

partisan package that adopts provisions authored by committee members on both sides of the aisle of the House and the Senate.

Former Chairman Hatch of Utah deserves a lot of credit for working to reach a bipartisan, bicameral agreement at the end of the last Congress, which is reflected in the legislation we will be introducing this afternoon.

I know Senator Hatch put a lot of work into trying to get this legislation across the finish line last year. Unfortunately, it wasn't meant to be, due to both political realities and, maybe, time constraints—even more so.

However, his work helped us get to where we are today. In other words, we are advancing a great deal of what Senator Hatch worked on, and our hope is that it will allow us to move quickly this year and finally get these commonsense reforms of the Internal Revenue Service enacted into law.

Some of the IRS reforms in this legislation include establishing a truly independent Office of Appeals within the Internal Revenue Service. This will help ensure the playing field is not tilted against taxpayers when those taxpayers are in dispute with the Internal Revenue Service.

To help bring the Internal Revenue Service into the 21st century, the legislation also would require the IRS to submit to Congress a plan to redesign the structure of the Agency to improve efficiency, enhance cyber security, and better meet taxpayer needs.

It also includes a number of provisions to protect the taxpayers better from tax ID theft and improve taxpayer interaction with the IRS, should they become a victim of that crime. This includes creating a single point of contact in the IRS to help the taxpayers navigate the bureaucracy and resolve their issues as quickly as possible.

To provide taxpayers with better protection against becoming such a victim in the first place, the legislation will expand to all taxpayers an IRS program that currently allows victims—and only victims—of tax ID theft to obtain a personalized PIN that better secures the identity of any taxpayer who asks for it.

The legislation also puts in place new safeguards to protect taxpayers against recent IRS enforcement abuses of so-called structuring laws. On several occasions, the IRS used these laws to seize bank accounts of small business owners when no underlying criminal activity was present. This includes seizing \$33,000 from a small business owner who operated a small restaurant in Arnolds Park, IA, for nearly 40 years. The IRS—on a whim, taking \$33,000 from that small business—caused the business to close, and the owner did nothing wrong in the end. Provisions in our bill will help ensure these types of abuses never occur again.

I would also like to note the improvements to the IRS whistleblower program that are contained in the bill.

In 2006, I authored legislation establishing a mandatory Internal Revenue Service whistleblower program. Since it was established, the IRS whistleblower program has turned into one of the most effective programs addressing tax evasion, leading to the recovery of more than \$5 billion in taxes that otherwise would have been lost to fraud.

Unfortunately, too many IRS whistleblowers continue to be treated like a skunk at a picnic. They often wait for years, and while they are waiting for years, it is in the dark, with no indication of whether the information they provided to the IRS would ever lead to a successful recovery or whether their reward is even being processed.

Moreover, they are often putting their careers on the line, exposing corporate tax shelters with no protection should their employer decide to retaliate.

Provisions in our bill will help to address these issues by authorizing the IRS to communicate with whistleblowers, in certain instances, while protecting taxpayer privacy.

What we are really saying is this: You ought to let these whistleblowers, who are patriotic people, trying to help the Federal Government collect money that wouldn't otherwise be collected—treat them like the patriotic citizens they are.

The bill would also extend anti-retaliation provisions to IRS whistleblowers that are presently afforded to whistleblowers under other whistleblower laws—the False Claims Act, which I authored in 1986, as well as the more recent Sarbanes-Oxley Act, which came out of another committee that I didn't serve on.

Finally, the bill includes modifications to the private debt collection program. I have long been a proponent of this program as a way to tackle the tax gap and to promote tax fairness. It works by assigning certain tax debts, which the IRS otherwise would not attempt to collect, to an outside contractor to pursue.

In other words, if the IRS isn't going to go after all the money that is owed to the taxpayers—and we don't want \$1 more than what people owe, but we want every dollar that people do owe—if they aren't going to go after it, we ought to find some way to go after it. That is why we have outside contractors pursuing some of these issues that the IRS isn't going to pursue.

Recent quarterly revenue reports demonstrate the program has the potential to bring in hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue on an annual basis.

I understand some of my colleagues, particularly on the House Ways and Means Committee, have been concerned that the program has been too heavily focused on lower income taxpayers. We listened to these concerns, and we worked to develop a sensible compromise while yet strengthening the long-term viability of this program.

These are just a few of the provisions in this bill. There are many others that will go a long way toward making the IRS work better for taxpayers.

I also know that some of my colleagues have additional ideas that we were unable to include in this package. I want them to know that I see this legislation as a first step toward reforming the IRS and strengthening taxpayers' protections.

I agree there is more that we can do. I am committed to evaluating additional proposals with input from all of our colleagues on reforms that could be included in a package of additional IRS reforms later this Congress.

But first things first. Companion legislation is being introduced in the House, which I hope the Senate will receive in the near future.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me and Ranking Member WYDEN in supporting this bipartisan bill.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BENNET, Ms. SMITH, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. HARRIS, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 923. A bill to fight homelessness in the United States by authorizing a grant program within the Health Resources and Services Administration for housing programs that offer comprehensive services and intensive case management for homeless individuals and families; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the "Fighting Homelessness with Services and Housing Act." This bill would help address our Nation's current homelessness crisis by establishing a new Federal grant program to increase support for comprehensive services paired with housing.

As we have seen with the growing diversity of our homeless populations—families with children, veterans, individuals with mental health conditions, people who simply could not keep up with increases in rent—our Nation's homelessness crisis is not going to resolve itself on its own.

According to the most recent data available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, there are more than 552,000 homeless individuals and families in the United States. Nearly 25 percent of this population is in California, with approximately 129,972 homeless people sleeping on the streets on any given night.

In a Nation as prosperous as ours, we can and we must do better. Our city, county, state, and Federal governments must work hand-in-hand with the non-profit and private sectors to establish collaborative efforts to significantly address the issue of homelessness.

The good news is that we have seen a model that works: supportive housing can truly stabilize an individual or

family and change their life. Supportive services such as mental and physical health care, substance abuse treatment, education and job training, and life skills such as financial literacy are critical components. Paired with intensive case management, supportive housing models make a difference.

One success story is the Downtown Women's Center in Los Angeles. This shelter allows homeless and formerly homeless women to transform their lives through a combination of permanent, supportive housing and workforce development. This would not be possible without the Center's partnerships with the City of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles County Department of Health, and other critical stakeholders. I've visited the Center, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same to see why this model works.

It will take a significant investment to solve the current homelessness crisis. The "Fighting Homelessness with Services and Housing Act" authorizes a new Federal funding grant program of \$750 million per year, subject to annual appropriations. Grantees must serve individuals or families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless by providing housing paired with a comprehensive set of services, and they must provide a 25 percent match for any Federal funds received.

Because each individual and every community is unique, the grant program created by this bill would be flexible in order to work in any region or for any homeless population. This bill supports the great work already being done across the country, allowing local governmental entities and non-profit organizations to expand their capacity and ensure a greater reach by putting Federal dollars where they will make the most effective impact.

This bipartisan legislation is supported by a wide coalition of local government, housing, health, and child welfare organizations, including the Child Welfare League of America, Children's Defense Fund, Corporation for Supportive Housing, Mayors and CEOs for U.S. Housing Investment, National Alliance to End Homelessness, National Association of Counties, National Education Association, National League of Cities, National Low Income Housing Coalition, NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, and Treatment Communities of America.

I particularly want to thank Senator MURKOWSKI for working with me on this important issue. I hope our colleagues will join us in cosponsoring the bill and moving it through the Senate. Thank you Mr. President. I yield the floor.

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

S. 959. A bill to establish in the Smithsonian Institution a comprehensive women's history museum, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am pleased to introduce, along with the senior Senator from California, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum Act. This bill would establish an American women's history museum in our Nation's Capital.

American women have made invaluable contributions to our country in every field, such as government, business, medicine, law, literature, sports, entertainment, the arts, and the military. Telling the history of American women matters, and a museum recognizing these achievements and experiences is long overdue.

In 1999, a Presidential commission on commemorating women in American history concluded that an “appropriate celebration of women's history in the next millennium should include the designation of a focal point for women's history in our Nation's capital.” In 2014, Congress took an important step toward realizing this goal when it passed legislation creating an independent, bipartisan commission to study the potential for establishing such a museum in Washington, DC. Following 18 months of study, the bipartisan commission unanimously concluded, “America needs and deserves a physical national museum dedicated to showcasing the historical experiences and impact of women in the country.” I could not agree more.

The bill we are introducing takes the next step toward creating this national museum. Incorporating the recommendations of the bipartisan Commission, the bill would establish a national museum to collect, study, and create programs incorporating and exhibiting a wide spectrum of American women's experiences, contributions, and history. The Smithsonian Institution would be the governing body, ensuring that this museum is free and open to all who visit Washington, DC. Following the Commission's recommendation, the Smithsonian has begun an American Women's History Initiative to increase its research and programming related to American women, past and present.

Mr. President, this year we commemorate the 100th anniversary of American women's suffrage and the decades-long fight for women's equality at the ballot box. The story, leaders, and lessons of women's suffrage are among the most powerful in our nation's history. Amid celebrations of that historic moment, I can think of few better ways to honor those women and that momentous achievement than by passing this legislation. A museum dedicated to women's history would help ensure that future generations understand what we owe to those American women who have helped build, sustain, and advance our society.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 128—COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Mrs. MURRAY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

S. RES. 128

Whereas on May 19, 1919, a group of scientists, artists, and civic leaders met in Washington, District of Columbia, and founded the National Parks Association, now known as the National Parks Conservation Association;

Whereas Robert Sterling Yard, founder of the National Parks Conservation Association and first Chief of Education of the National Park Service, led a 6-member committee to develop the articles of incorporation for the National Parks Conservation Association “to further the view of national parks as classrooms and museums of nature”;

Whereas the National Parks Conservation Association has grown from 1 staff member to a community of organizers, policy experts, attorneys, communications professionals, and more than 1,300,000 members and supporters, all dedicated—

(1) to advocating for parks in the United States; and

(2) to inspiring future generations to be good stewards of public spaces;

Whereas the mission of the National Parks Conservation Association, “protecting and enhancing America's National Park System for present and future generations”, is as relevant in 2019 as the mission was in 1919;

Whereas, a century after being established, the National Parks Conservation Association—

(1) continues to act as a passionate and outspoken defender of the national parks of the United States; and

(2) represents people from different backgrounds coming together to fulfill a unique mandate to steward publicly shared land, independent of government and private business;

Whereas the founders of the National Parks Conservation Association envisioned national parks as incredible places deserving of protection and preservation for all people;

Whereas the National Parks Conservation Association is dedicated to ensuring that all people can share in that vision, regardless of gender, race, or religious belief; and

Whereas the National Parks Conservation Association plays a vital role in protecting places of unparalleled natural wonder, historical significance, and cultural value within the National Park System: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the 100th anniversary of the founding of the National Parks Conservation Association;

(2) recognizes the National Parks Conservation Association for 100 years of protecting and enhancing the National Park System for present and future generations;

(3) applauds the past, present, and future efforts of the National Parks Conservation Association to advocate for the National Park System; and

(4) wishes the National Parks Conservation Association continued success during the next 100 years as the National Parks Conservation Association strives to engage and inspire the public to advance the mission of the National Park System.

SENATE RESOLUTION 129—HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND LEGACY OF CÉSAR ESTRADA CHÁVEZ

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. WARREN, Mr. UDALL, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. SANDERS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 129

Whereas César Estrada Chávez was born on March 31, 1927, near Yuma, Arizona;

Whereas César Estrada Chávez spent his early years on a family farm;

Whereas, at the age of 10, César Estrada Chávez joined the thousands of migrant farm workers laboring in fields and vineyards throughout the Southwest after a bank foreclosure resulted in the loss of the family farm;

Whereas César Estrada Chávez, after attending more than 30 elementary and middle schools and achieving an eighth grade education, left school to work full-time as a farm worker to help support his family;

Whereas, at the age of 17, César Estrada Chávez entered the United States Navy and served the United States with distinction for 2 years;

Whereas, in 1948, César Estrada Chávez returned from military service to marry Helen Fabela, whom he had met while working in the vineyards of central California;

Whereas César Estrada Chávez and Helen Fabela had 8 children;

Whereas, as early as 1949, César Estrada Chávez was committed to organizing farm workers to campaign for safe and fair working conditions, reasonable wages, livable housing, and the outlawing of child labor;

Whereas, in 1952, César Estrada Chávez joined the Community Service Organization, a prominent Latino civil rights group, and worked with the organization to coordinate voter registration drives and conduct campaigns against discrimination in East Los Angeles;

Whereas César Estrada Chávez served as the national director of the Community Service Organization;

Whereas, in 1962, César Estrada Chávez left the Community Service Organization to establish the National Farm Workers Association, which eventually became the United Farm Workers of America;

Whereas, under the leadership of César Estrada Chávez, the United Farm Workers of America organized thousands of migrant farm workers to fight for fair wages, health care coverage, pension benefits, livable housing, and respect;

Whereas César Estrada Chávez was a strong believer in the principles of non-violence practiced by Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.;

Whereas César Estrada Chávez effectively used peaceful tactics that included fasting for 25 days in 1968, 25 days in 1972, and 38 days in 1988 to call attention to the terrible working and living conditions of farm workers in the United States;

Whereas, through his commitment to non-violence, César Estrada Chávez brought dignity and respect to the organized farm workers and became an inspiration to and a resource for individuals engaged in human rights struggles throughout the world;

Whereas the influence of César Estrada Chávez extends far beyond agriculture and