

in the ordinary course of carrying out its tax exempt purpose; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 331. A bill to amend the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act of 1975 to modify the exemptions from certain disclosure requirement; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 332. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to remove the manifestation period required for the presumptions of service connection for chloracne, porphyria cutanea tarda, and acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy associated with exposure to certain herbicide agents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 333. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to work with cybersecurity consortia for training, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 334. A bill to authorize the construction of the Musselshell-Judith Rural Water System and study of the Dry-Redwater Regional Water Authority System in the States of Montana and North Dakota, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. WARNER, Mr. MORAN, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. JONES):

S. 335. A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to ensure that ZTE Corporation complies with all probationary conditions set forth in the settlement agreement entered into between ZTE Corporation and the Bureau of Industry and Security of the Department of Commerce; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. TESTER:

S. 336. A bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to submit a report on the response of law enforcement agencies to reports of missing or murdered Indians; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. PETERS):

S. 337. A bill to extend the authorization for the MotorCities National Heritage Area in the State of Michigan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. UDALL, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. COONS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 338. A bill to amend the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 to require the development of ethics plans for certain transition teams, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HASSAN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 339. A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers as components of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEE,

Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. PAUL, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 340. 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; read the first time.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 341. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the procurement practices of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. Res. 40. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Finance; from the Committee on Finance; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. BARRASSO:

S. Res. 41. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Environment and Public Works; from the Committee on Environment and Public Works; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. Res. 42. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Armed Services; from the Committee on Armed Services; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. Res. 43. A resolution honoring the 150th anniversary of the establishment of Lindsborg, Kansas; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. Res. 44. A resolution raising awareness and encouraging the prevention of stalking by designating January 2019 as "National Stalking Awareness Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. Res. 45. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. BARRASSO:

S. Res. 46. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Environment and Public Works; from the Committee on Environment and Public Works; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 22

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 22, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of dental services under the Medicare program.

S. 47

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 47, a bill to provide for the management of the natural resources of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 104

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 104, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions.

S. 130

At the request of Mr. SASSE, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 130, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion.

S. 162

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 162, a bill to provide back pay to low-wage contractor employees, and for other purposes.

S. 210

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 210, a bill to amend the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 and the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act to provide for advancement in public safety services to Indian communities, and for other purposes.

S. 218

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 218, a bill to empower States to manage the development and production of oil and gas on available Federal land, and for other purposes.

S. 249

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 249, a bill to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to regain observer status for Taiwan in the World Health Organization, and for other purposes.

S. 257

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) were added as cosponsors of S. 257, a bill to provide for rental assistance for homeless or at-risk Indian veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 266

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 266,

a bill to provide for the long-term improvement of public school facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 283

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 283, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to, and utilization of, bone mass measurement benefits under part B of the Medicare program by establishing a minimum payment amount under such part for bone mass measurement.

S. 285

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 285, a bill to require U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to take into custody certain aliens who have been charged in the United States with a crime that resulted in the death or serious bodily injury of another person, and for other purposes.

S. 294

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 294, a bill to establish a business incubators program within the Department of the Interior to promote economic development in Indian reservation communities.

S. 311

At the request of Mr. SASSE, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 311, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion.

S. 319

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 319, a bill to improve the reproductive assistance provided by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs to severely wounded, ill, or injured members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their spouses or partners, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 3

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) were added as cosponsors of S. J. Res. 3, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to balancing the budget.

S. RES. 30

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a co-

sponsor 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 Orbán government.

AMENDMENT NO. 103

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 103 intended to be proposed to S. 1, a bill to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEE, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. PAUL, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. SMITH, Mr. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 340. 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; read the first time.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, over the past few years, the national headlines have been dominated by stories about the high cost of pharmaceuticals. We have seen jaw-dropping examples of companies raising the cost of their products overnight, pricing too many families out of the prescription drugs they need to survive. Just last week, House and Senate Committees charged with oversight of the pharmaceutical industry heard heartbreaking testimony from family members of those dependent on insulin who have been forced to ration their treatment because the annual cost of insulin has nearly doubled since 2012. That is appalling, and putting Americans into that kind of situation is unacceptable.

Lawmakers across the political spectrum, including President Trump, agree that Congress needs to act to rein in these spiraling prescription drug prices. Pharmaceutical companies should be compensated for their important work developing lifesaving treatments. But when companies engage in predatory practices at the expense of consumers, we must act. That is why today I am reintroducing the Creating and Restoring Equal Access to Equivalent Samples (CREATES) Act, bipartisan legislation to end inappropriate delay tactics that are used by some brand-name drug companies to block

competition from more affordable generic drugs. I am glad to be joined by Senators GRASSLEY, KLOBUCHAR, LEE and 24 other Senators of both parties in introducing this bill today.

The first delay tactic addressed by the CREATES Act involves the withholding of drug samples that generic manufacturers need to gain regulatory approval. Federal law requires generic competitors to prove that their low-cost alternative is equally safe and effective as the brand-name drug with which they wish to compete. Unfortunately, some brand-name companies are preventing generic manufacturers from obtaining the samples they need to make the necessary comparison. This simple delay tactic misuses regulatory safeguards as a weapon to block competition.

The second delay tactic addressed by the CREATES Act involves the development of shared safety protocols. For some high-risk drugs, Federal law requires a generic drug manufacturer to join the brand-name drug manufacturer in a single, shared safety protocol for distribution of the drug. Despite this requirement, some brand-name companies are refusing to negotiate shared safety protocols with potential generic competitors, again undermining those competitors' ability to gain FDA approval for their generic versions of such drugs.

The CREATES Act allows the FDA more discretion to approve alternative safety protocols, rather than require parties to develop shared safety protocols. Any safety protocol approved by the FDA must meet the rigorous statutory standards already in place.

These exclusionary practices thwart competition and deny consumers the benefit of lower drug prices. Recognizing the effect these tactics have in keeping drug prices high, in May 2018, FDA for the first time publicly identified brand-name drug companies that abuse FDA's safety programs or enact their own restricted distribution systems to delay competition from generic and biosimilar manufacturers. The FDA's list shows 164 inquiries covering more than 50 prescription drugs where access to samples was at issue. In recent years, according to FDA testimony to Congress, the number of inquiries has increased.

I share the concerns of Vermonters and Americans across the country that many prescription drugs are simply too expensive. I hear this again and again, from Vermonters in every corner of our state. When brand companies can artificially raise the price of drugs by using predatory practices, patients suffer. Illnesses worsen. Families, government programs, and other payers in the healthcare system ultimately bear those added, unnecessary costs.

Making meaningful reform to reduce the cost of prescription drugs should be a top priority for all lawmakers. The CREATES Act is an important piece of that puzzle, and is widely supported across the political spectrum and has