

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 133

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 133, a bill to extend the National Alzheimer's Project.

S. 134

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 134, a bill to require an annual budget estimate for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to reports and recommendations made under the National Alzheimer's Project Act.

S. 234

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 234, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the new markets tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 476

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 476, a bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to protect access to genetically targeted technologies.

S. 711

At the request of Mr. BUDD, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 711, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the invaluable service that working dogs provide to society.

S. 930

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) were added as cosponsors of S. 930, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide public safety officer benefits for exposure-related cancers, and for other purposes.

S. 971

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 971, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to remove the Medicaid coverage exclusion for inmates in custody pending disposition of charges, and for other purposes.

S. 1351

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1351, a bill to study and prevent child abuse in youth residential programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1467

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1467, 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. 1538

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1538, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants for outdoor learning spaces and to develop living schoolyards.

S. 1797

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1797, a bill to establish a demonstration program to allow States to test payment models for maternity care provided under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program.

S. 1829

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1829, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to persons engaged in the import of petroleum from the Islamic Republic of Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 1886

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1886, a bill to establish a Federal Clearinghouse on Safety and Best Practices for Nonprofit Organizations, Faith-based Organizations, and Houses of Worship within the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

S. 1906

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1906, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to establish a time-limited provisional approval pathway, subject to specific obligations, for certain drugs and biological products, and for other purposes.

S. 2372

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2372, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to streamline enrollment under the Medicaid program of certain providers across State lines, and for other purposes.

S. 2555

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 2555, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to expand and improve the enforcement capabilities of the Attorney General, and for other purposes.

S. 2557

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2557, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to eliminate interest on student loans, establish the Education Affordability Trust Fund, increase annual and aggregate loan limits, and for other purposes.

S. 2569

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2569, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to clarify that the possession, sale, purchase, importation, exportation, or transportation of drug testing equipment that tests for the presence of fentanyl or xylazine is not unlawful.

S. 2638

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 2638, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to build safer, thriving communities, and save lives, by investing in effective community-based violence reduction initiatives, and for other purposes.

S. 2662

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2662, a bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out certain activities relating to research for wood products, and for other purposes.

S. 2825

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2825, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the United States Army Dustoff crews of the Vietnam War, collectively, in recognition of their extraordinary heroism and life-saving actions in Vietnam.

S. 2835

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2835, a bill making continuing appropriations for military pay in the event of a Government shutdown.

S. 2970

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2970, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to designate Indigenous Peoples' Day as a legal public holiday, to replace the term "Columbus Day" with the term "Indigenous Peoples' Day", and for other purposes.

S. 3000

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3000, a bill to repeal Freedom Support Act section 907 waiver authority with respect to assistance to Azerbaijan.

S. 3028

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3028, a bill to continue in effect certain Executive orders imposing sanctions with respect to Iran, to prevent the waiver of certain sanctions imposed by the United States with respect to Iran until the Government of

Iran ceases to attempt to assassinate United States officials, other United States citizens, and Iranian nationals residing in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 3063

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3063, a bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a grant program to address forestry workforce development needs, and for other purposes.

S. 3152

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3152, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to require that annual State report cards reflect the same race groups as the decennial census of population.

S. 3193

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3193, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to allow for the use of telehealth in substance use disorder treatment, and for other purposes.

S. 3214

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3214, a bill to divert Federal funding away from supporting the presence of police in schools and toward evidence-based and trauma informed services that address the needs of marginalized students and improve academic outcomes, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 47

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 47, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Justice relating to "Office of the Attorney General; Home Confinement Under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act".

S.J. RES. 49

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 49, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to a "Standard for Determining Joint Employer Status".

S. RES. 333

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor

of S. Res. 333, a resolution designating 2024 as the Year of Democracy as a time to reflect on the contributions of the system of Government of the United States to a more free and stable world.

S. RES. 454

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 454, a resolution designating November 8, 2023, as "National Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Day" and celebrating the importance of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in education and the workforce in the United States.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

S. 3297. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand the availability of medical nutrition therapy services under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I rise today to introduce the Medical Nutrition Therapy Act of 2023, along with my colleague from Michigan, Senator PETERS. Our bill would expand Medicare beneficiaries' access to medical nutrition therapy, or MNT, which is a cost-effective component of treatment for obesity, diabetes, hypertension, dyslipidemia, and other chronic conditions.

At a time when the increased prevalence of diet-related chronic conditions is contributing to poor health outcomes and growing healthcare expenditures, increasing access to MNT should be part of the strategy to improve disease management and prevention for America's seniors. The Medical Nutrition Therapy Act would make two important changes to support patients, improve health outcomes, and reduce unnecessary healthcare costs.

First, it would expand Medicare Part B coverage of outpatient medical nutrition therapy services to a number of currently uncovered diseases or conditions—including prediabetes, obesity, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, malnutrition, eating disorders, cancer, HIV/AIDS, gastrointestinal diseases including celiac disease, and cardiovascular disease. Currently, Medicare Part B only covers outpatient MNT for diabetes, renal disease, and post-kidney transplant.

Second, the bill would allow more types of providers—including nurse practitioners, physician assistants, clinical nurse specialists, and psychologists—to refer patients to MNT. This is especially critical for a rural State like Maine, where a NP or PA may be one's trusted primary care provider.

MNT counseling is provided by registered dietitian nutritionists, RDNs, as part of a collaborative healthcare team. It is evidenced-based and proven

to positively affect weight, blood pressure, blood lipids, and blood sugar control. Nutritional counseling by RDNs is recommended by the National Lipid Association to promote long-term adherence to an individualized, heart-healthy diet. Through MNT, individuals benefit from in-depth, individualized nutrition assessments. Follow up visits help reinforce important behavior and lifestyle changes and increase compliance.

Older Americans deserve improved access to this cost-effective medical treatment, but many older adults are missing out under the current Medicare policy. Marcy Kyle, a RDN from Rockport, ME, has seen many patients denied access to medically necessary MNT. One of her patients with prediabetes was referred by his primary care physician for MNT at age 64. At that time, his private insurance covered the service, and he booked the first available appointment the following week. That same week, this patient turned 65 and transitioned onto Medicare. You can imagine his surprise upon arriving for his appointment and learning that MNT would not be covered.

Another unfortunate example from Maine was a patient with a new celiac disease diagnosis complicated by severe weight loss. His private insurance covered MNT as celiac disease is a controllable disease with proper nutrition. But when transitioning from private insurance to Medicare, this patient, too, lost his access to MNT. The saddest situation this RDN has confronted is when an older cancer patient experiences such side effects from cancer treatment as severe weight loss or nausea, which could be prevented with MNT. As with prediabetes and celiac disease, however, Medicare does not cover MNT for cancer patients. This truly is a lost opportunity since we know early treatment with MNT can prevent future and more serious health complications and chronic conditions in older adults. These conditions should be covered.

In addition to leading to confusion and potential delays in care for patients seeking needed healthcare services, we must also consider the staggering economic impact of chronic diseases. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 90 percent of the \$3.8 trillion that the United States spends annually on healthcare goes to the treatment of people with chronic diseases and mental health conditions. Preventing chronic diseases or managing symptoms when prevention is not possible is one way to reduce these costs. This is particularly important for the Medicare Program, as more than two-thirds of seniors on Medicare live with multiple chronic conditions. As one registered dietitian nutritionist in Maine told me, "We all know a dollar spent on prevention saves many health care dollars in the long run and is the right thing to do for our seniors at a time when they have limited budgets."