

being clinically superior to other commercially available drugs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 608. A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the Deerfield River for potential addition to the national wild and scenic rivers system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. 609. A bill to establish a pilot program awarding competitive grants to organizations administering entrepreneurial development programming to formerly incarcerated individuals, and other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 610. A bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to modify the frequency of board of directors meetings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 611. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the low-income housing credit for rehabilitation expenditures for buildings achieving enhanced energy performance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 612. A bill to reauthorize the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. TUBERVILLE (for himself, Mr. LEE, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. COTTON, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. BUDD, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. ERNST, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. DAINES, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mrs. BRITT):

S. 613. A bill to provide that for purposes of determining compliance with title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 in athletics, sex shall be recognized based solely on a person's reproductive biology and genetics at birth; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LEE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 614. A bill to codify the temporary scheduling order for fentanyl-related substances by adding fentanyl-related substances to schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 615. A bill to improve the safety of the air supply on aircraft, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 616. A bill to amend the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Reservation Restoration Act to provide for the transfer of additional Federal land to the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. KING, Mr. REED, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr.

BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 617. A bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to permanently prohibit the conduct of offshore drilling on the outer Continental Shelf in the Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, North Atlantic, and Straits of Florida planning areas; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 618. A bill to establish the United States Foundation for International Conservation to promote long-term management of protected and conserved areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. HAWLEY (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. LEE, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 619. A bill to require the Director of National Intelligence to declassify information relating to the origin of COVID-19, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

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

S. Res. 86. A resolution commemorating the bicentennial of the Texas Ranger Division of the Texas Department of Public Safety, the oldest State law enforcement agency in North America, and honoring the men and women, past and present, of the Texas Rangers; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. Res. 87. A resolution recognizing the national debt as a threat to national security; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BRAUN:

S. Res. 88. A resolution establishing appropriate thresholds for certain budget points of order in the Senate, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. Res. 89. A resolution recognizing the duty of the Senate to abandon Modern Monetary Theory and recognizing that the acceptance of Modern Monetary Theory would lead to higher deficits and higher inflation; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. Res. 90. A resolution recognizing the significance of endometriosis as an unmet chronic disease for women and designating March 2023 as "Endometriosis Awareness Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 9

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 9, a bill to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from sending petroleum products from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to China, and for other purposes.

S. 70

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 70, a bill to require the Bureau of Indian Affairs to process and complete all mortgage packages associated with residential and business mortgages on Indian land by certain deadlines, and for other purposes.

S. 110

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 110, a bill to allow a State to submit a declaration of intent to the Secretary of Education to combine certain funds to improve the academic achievement of students.

S. 141

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 141, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve certain programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs for home and community based services for veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 218

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 218, a bill to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from sending petroleum products from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to China, and for other purposes.

S. 282

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 282, a bill to designate a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.

S. 305

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 305, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the United States Marine Corps, and to support programs at the Marine Corps Heritage Center.

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 305, *supra*.

S. 325

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 325, a bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for a code of conduct for justices and judges of the courts of the United States, establish an ethics investigations counsel, and require disclosure of recusals.

S. 444

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 444, a bill to require any convention, agreement, or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response reached by the

World Health Assembly to be subject to Senate ratification.

S. 473

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 473, a bill to provide for drone security.

S. 524

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 524, a bill to eliminate disparity in sentencing for cocaine offenses, and for other purposes.

S. 532

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 532, 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. 547

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 547, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Rhode Island Regiment, in recognition of their dedicated service during the Revolutionary War.

S. 548

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 548, a bill to enhance the security of the United States and its allies, and for other purposes.

S. 558

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 558, a bill to codify Executive Order 13950 (relating to combatting race and sex stereotyping), and for other purposes.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. COTTON, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. WARNOCK, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HOEVEN, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 596. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make employers of spouses of military personnel eligible for the work opportunity credit; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, today I am introducing the Military Spouse Hiring Act with my colleagues Senators BOOZMAN, HASSAN, ROUNDS, and

17 of our colleagues. Enacting this bill would improve financial stability for Blue Star families across the country.

The families of America's servicemembers make sacrifices that often go unrecognized. Among them is packing up and moving frequently, with military spouses regularly having to leave stable employment to move to a new area and start over. This is compounded by the complex system of State licensing and certification requirements, which can prevent these spouses from taking jobs that utilize their expertise and experience. Because of this, military spouses have unemployment rates substantially higher than the national average, and they are often underemployed when they do have jobs. Adding to the financial struggles caused by frequent periods of unemployment and underemployment, the rising cost of childcare puts a substantial burden on many military families.

The Military Spouse Hiring Act would help these families by making military spouses an eligible population for the work opportunity tax credit. This tax credit has proven effective in improving employment prospects for other groups. Extending it to military spouses would help them find employment more easily after moving to new areas.

I hope my colleagues will support this bill to help families who have made the greatest sacrifice for our Nation.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. KING, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. REED, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. SMITH, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 597. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I rise today, along with my colleague Senator BROWN, to introduce the Social Security Fairness Act. The bipartisan bill would repeal two Social Security provisions that unfairly penalize many public servants in Maine and in other States.

Social Security is the foundation of retirement income for most Americans. This crucial program has made the difference between poverty and a comfortable retirement for millions of seniors. Yet, some teachers, firefighters, police officers, and other public servants often see their earned Social Security benefits unfairly reduced by two Social Security provisions: the windfall elimination provision and the Government pension offset.

The Windfall elimination provision or W-E-P affects public servants who receive a pension from a job where they did not pay into Social Security but who also worked long enough in another job to qualify for Social Security benefits. Due to the WEP, their Social Security benefits are calculated using a different formula, which can reduce their monthly benefits. For workers who become eligible for benefits in 2023, the WEP reduction can be up to \$557.50 per month, subject to other adjustments.

The Government Pension Offset GPO affects public servants who receive a pension from a job where they did not pay into Social Security and are also eligible to receive a Social Security spousal or widow(er)'s benefit. However, the GPO reduces Social Security spousal or widow(er)'s benefits by an amount equal to two-thirds of the non-covered pension.

According to the Social Security Administration, in December 2022, more than 2 million people, including nearly 20,500 people in Maine, had their Social Security benefits reduced by the WEP. Similarly, nearly 735,000 people were affected by the GPO in December 2022, including more than 8,100 people in Maine. While the effects of the WEP and GPO are most acute in certain States, including Maine, data from the Social Security Administration indicate that these provisions affect public servants in all 50 States.

Many Maine teachers have spoken with me about how the WEP and GPO affect their retirement security. I recently heard from a special education teacher in Kennebuck who has spent more than 40 years teaching and also held a second job in the private sector to help support her family after becoming a single parent. Due to the WEP, she is concerned about her financial security once she retires. A retiree in Mount Desert also reached out to me recently to share his story. He wants to make sure his wife, who is a public servant, will be taken care of after he is gone. Due to the GPO, he is concerned that any Social Security widow's benefits his wife receives will be substantially reduced.

The bill we are introducing today, the Social Security Fairness Act, would repeal both the WEP and the GPO for Social Security benefits payable after December 2023. This means current Social Security beneficiaries would have their benefits recalculated without applying the WEP and GPO. Teachers, firefighters, police officers, and other public servants currently in the workforce would no longer have to worry about having their Social Security benefits unfairly reduced in the future. Those who are considering careers in public service would no longer have to weigh the potential negative effects of this choice on their future retirement security.

Our dedicated public servants, such as our teachers who help prepare our