

an increase in the supply of housing, including low-income housing, in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 3310. A bill to require verification of the personal and biometric information of all individuals evacuated from Afghanistan, to require in-person interviews of such individuals, and to prohibit Afghan evacuees who do not provide such information or submit to such interviews from receiving Federal assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. BOOZEMAN, and Ms. SLOTKIN):

S. 3311. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate conflicts of interest in peer review for quality management of care conducted by the Veterans Health Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 3312. A bill to require the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to develop guidance for upgrading information systems to post-quantum cryptography, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 3313. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to issue a right-of-way for an emergency exit on certain National Park Service land in the State of Virginia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SHEEHY (for himself and Mr. TUBERVILLE):

S. 3314. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to expand a directive of the Veterans Health Administration regarding informed consent to apply to certain types of medications; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 3315. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to coordinate to improve cybersecurity in the health care and public health sectors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN:

S. Res. 521. A resolution celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act on November 29, 2025, and recognizing its transformative impact on the education of children with learning disabilities; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. Res. 522. A resolution commemorating and supporting the goals of World AIDS Day; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SULLIVAN:

S. Res. 523. A resolution expressing the opposition of the Senate to the Chinese Communist Party's "stolen valor" historical revisionism with regard to Allied Victory in Asia, commemorating the contributions made by the Republic of China to Allied Victory, and acknowledging the postwar contributions of the Government of Japan to peace and stability in Asia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. Con. Res. 24. A concurrent resolution recognizing the 30th anniversary of the Dayton Peace Accords; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 142

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 142, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to wildland firefighters in recognition of their strength, resiliency, sacrifice, and service to protect the forests, grasslands, and communities of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 494

At the request of Mr. SCHMITT, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 494, a bill to establish a national plan to coordinate research on epilepsy, and for other purposes.

S. 522

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 522, a bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to modify the frequency of board of directors meetings, and for other purposes.

S. 607

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 607, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish an integrated project team to improve the process for scheduling appointments for health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 624

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 624, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to achieve parity between the cost-of-living adjustment with respect to an annuity under the Federal Employees Retirement System and an annuity under the Civil Service Retirement System, and for other purposes.

S. 649

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 649, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for Post-9/11 Educational Assistance to members of the National Guard who perform certain full-time duty, and for other purposes.

S. 726

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 726, a bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States

Code, to require the safe storage of firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 787

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 787, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a commission to review operations at the Veterans Health Administration and submit to Congress reports with respect to that review, and for other programs.

S. 1027

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1027, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make employers of spouses of military personnel eligible for the work opportunity credit.

S. 1227

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1227, a bill to require the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the Commissioner of Social Security to review and simplify the processes, procedures, forms, and communications for family caregivers to assist individuals in establishing eligibility for, enrolling in, and maintaining and utilizing coverage and benefits under the Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, and Social Security programs respectively, and for other purposes.

S. 1506

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1506, a bill to establish a Medicare-for-All national health insurance program.

S. 1552

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1552, a bill to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors.

S. 1576

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1576, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the denial of deduction for certain excessive employee remuneration, and for other purposes.

S. 1649

At the request of Mr. TUBERVILLE, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1649, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain marketplace providers as importers for purposes of the excise tax on sporting goods.

S. 1748

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1748, a bill to protect the safety of children on the internet.

S. 2196

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2196, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to define intimate partner to include someone with whom there is or was a dating relationship, and for other purposes.

S. 2252

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2252, a bill to require United States foreign assistance commodities to be made available for their intended purposes before they expire.

S. 2255

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2255, a bill to provide for the vacating of certain convictions and expungement of certain arrests of victims of human trafficking.

S. 2341

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2341, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to impose requirements for substances generally recognized as safe, to require the Commissioner of Food and Drugs to reassess the safety of chemicals added to food, and for other purposes.

S. 2426

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2426, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide pharmacy payment of certain services.

S. 2613

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEG0) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2613, a bill to establish protections for warehouse workers, and for other purposes.

S. 2667

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2667, a bill to prevent violence in the West Bank and authorize the imposition of sanctions with respect to any foreign person endangering United States national security and undermining prospects for a two-state solution by committing illegal violent acts.

S. 2746

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from California (Mr.

SCHIFF) were added as cosponsors of S. 2746, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to produce suspicious activity reports relating to Jeffrey Epstein and his associates, and for other purposes.

S. 2859

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2859, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to ensure campus access at public institutions of higher education for religious groups.

S. 2892

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2892, a bill to direct the Secretary of Education to make grants to support early college high schools and dual or concurrent enrollment programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2951

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2951, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide for certain adjustments to Medicare payment for items of durable medical equipment that were formerly included in round 2021 of the DMEPOS competitive bidding program.

S. 2960

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2960, a bill to develop economic tools to deter aggression by the People's Republic of China against Taiwan.

S. 2983

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2983, a bill to reauthorize the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015.

S. 2988

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2988, a bill to bolster upgrades and infrastructure for lasting development at the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 3062

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3062, a bill to require artificial intelligence chatbots to implement age verification measures and make certain disclosures, and for other purposes.

S. 3093

At the request of Mr. SCHMITT, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3093, a bill to require the Science and Technology Directorate in the Department of Homeland Security to work with the Drug Enforcement Agency to develop greater capacity to

detect, identify, and disrupt illicit substances, such as nitazenes, in very low concentrations.

S. 3114

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3114, a bill to amend the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959 to require labor organizations to make certain disclosures to its members, and for other purposes.

S. 3116

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3116, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to restrict charges of unfair labor practices that are not filed in good faith or are frivolous, and for other purposes.

S. 3142

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3142, a bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to identify each alien who is serving, or has served, in the Armed Forces of the United States on the application of any such alien for an immigration benefit or the placement of any such alien in an immigration enforcement proceeding, and for other purposes.

S. 3143

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3143, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to allow certain alien veterans to be paroled into the United States to receive health care furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

S. 3144

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3144, a bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a veterans visa program to permit veterans who have been removed from the United States to return as immigrants, and for other purposes.

S. 3179

At the request of Mrs. MOODY, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3179, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to establish a criminal penalty for obstructing immigration enforcement activities.

S. 3183

At the request of Mr. SCHIFF, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3183, a bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to improve safety standards for wildland firefighters, and for other purposes.

S. 3218

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3218, a bill to provide for the first credible audit of gold owned by the United

States in decades, to upgrade the purity of gold to meet global market standards, and to conduct subsequent audits every 5 years.

S. 3235

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3235, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to provide for food-based interventions.

S. 3279

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3279, a bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of religion, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), and marital status in the administration and provision of child welfare services, to improve safety, well-being, and permanency for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer or questioning foster youth, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 95

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 95, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service relating to "Interim Guidance Simplifying Application of the Corporate Alternative Minimum Tax to Partnerships".

S. RES. 236

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 236, a resolution calling for the return of abducted Ukrainian children before finalizing any peace agreement to end the war against Ukraine.

S. RES. 323

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 323, a resolution urging the United States to lead a global effort to halt and reverse the nuclear arms race.

S. RES. 511

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 511, a resolution supporting the goals and principles of Transgender Day of Remembrance by recognizing the epidemic of violence toward transgender people and memorializing the lives lost this year.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

S. 3296. A bill to amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to cover,

for purposes of workers' compensation under such chapter, services by physician assistants and nurse practitioners provided to injured Federal workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act. I am pleased that my colleague from Connecticut Senator BLUMENTHAL is my lead cosponsor on this bill.

Our bipartisan bill would allow physician assistants and nurse practitioners to certify disabilities and oversee treatment for Federal workers with injuries or illnesses that occur on the job, when doing so is consistent with the scope of their practice under State law.

Civil servants bring dedication, competence, and experience to their work, and this proposal affords them greater choice over their own healthcare in the event that they suffer a work-related injury or illness. Federal employees can already select a PA or NP as their primary healthcare provider within the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program.

However, and inexplicably, the Federal Employees' Compensation Act permits only a physician to make the diagnosis, certify the injury and extent of the disability, and to oversee the patient's treatments and care when a Federal employee is injured on the job.

This bill would allow the more than 2 million Federal employees in our country, including more than 12,000 Federal employees in the State of Maine, the ability to receive their healthcare from the practitioner of their choice after a work-related injury. When they can make their own choice, they have access to more timely care and continuity of care. They are also having the decisions about their healthcare and the extent of their disability or illness made by their primary care physician who knows them best, who understands their healthcare history.

Mainers, especially in our very rural communities, are often cared for by nurse practitioners or physician assistants. They act as their primary care providers. Let me give you an example. Jackie Carter and Corinne Malenfant are two nurse practitioners with a primary care practice in Orland, ME. They have described the challenges they face when they treat Federal employees.

Despite being the chosen healthcare provider of their federally employed patients, Jackie and Corinne are not authorized to certify their patients' injuries and illnesses and oversee the care for their work-related injuries under the Federal Employees' Compensation Act. As a result, their patients can experience lengthy delays in starting treatment due to the requirement that only a physician can certify the injury and oversee the Federal employee's care while in the Workers' Compensation Program.

In some very rural communities, Mr. President—and I suspect this may be true in parts of your State as well—there simply aren't any physicians who are practicing, or they are unable to accommodate additional patients.

So think about the situation that is created here. A Federal employee, who has a primary care provider who is, say, a nurse practitioner or a physician assistant, is injured on the job, but instead of immediately being able to go to this primary care provider, they have to wait until they can get in to see a physician—a physician who may be miles away and unable to see them quickly, a physician who does not know their history. They can't proceed with getting the Federal employee's benefits and healthcare treatments they need to get well and return to work. That just makes no sense in rural America today.

It is important to emphasize that this bill defers to State law. It would not expand the scope of any practice. Instead, it would simply remove a barrier that prevents dedicated healthcare professionals from practicing as their State permits them to do.

NPs and PAs already provide a significant amount of healthcare to injured Federal employees, but within the Federal Employees' Compensation Act, while they are not currently authorized to certify injuries and oversee patient treatment, they are authorized to treat injured Federal employees and be reimbursed for their services but only in cases where a physician has first certified the injury and continues to oversee the treatment. That is redundant, it causes delays, and it does not make sense.

Federal programs have long recognized the importance of nurse practitioners and physician assistants. Yet the Federal Employees' Compensation Act is an outlier in the restrictive nature of the program when it comes to NPs and PAs and their patients. Modernizing the Federal Employees' Compensation Act through the reforms contained in this legislation would be consistent with the practices of numerous other Federal Agencies and programs, including Medicare, the Veterans' Administration, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, the Indian Health Service, and the Social Security Administration. They don't create this additional barrier.

In rural communities, NPs and PAs may well be the only provider within a reasonable distance. Delaying the certification of injuries or illnesses for Federal workers means delays in their care. The longer those delays take, the longer before they can get the treatment they need to return to their jobs.

I also want to note that this bill would not increase Federal spending. The Congressional Budget Office has found that this bill would have an insignificant net effect on direct spending, reasoning that while it may increase access to care for injured Federal employees, it would be offset by