

Ondray T. Harris, of Virginia, to be Director, Community Relations Service, for a term of four years.

David W. Hagy, of Texas, to be Director of the National Institute of Justice.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. CRAIG:

S. 2582. A bill for the relief of Sali Bregaj, Mjajtme Bregaj, and Nertila Bregaj-Swyer; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. 2583. A bill to amend the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002 (31 U.S.C. 3321 note) in order to prevent the loss of billions in taxpayer dollars; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. REID (for Mrs. CLINTON):

S. 2584. A bill to establish a program to evaluate HIV/AIDS programs in order to improve accountability, increase transparency, and ensure the delivery of evidence-based services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. WEBB):

S. 2585. A bill to provide for the enhancement of the suicide prevention programs of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER:

S. 2586. A bill to provide States with fiscal relief through a temporary increase in the Federal medical assistance percentage and direct payments to States; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. KYL, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. CRAIG, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. DOMENICI, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 2587. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for compensation to States incarcerating undocumented aliens charged with a felony or 2 or more misdemeanors; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. KYL, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. CRAIG, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. DOMENICI, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 2588. A bill to require that funds awarded to States and political subdivisions for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program be distributed not later than 120 days after the last day of the annual application period; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. LUGAR (for himself and Mr. BIDEN):

S. Res. 439. A resolution expressing the strong support of the Senate for the North

Atlantic Treaty Organization to enter into a Membership Action Plan with Georgia and Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. VOINOVICH):

S. Res. 440. A resolution recognizing soil as an essential natural resource, and soils professionals as playing a critical role in managing our Nation's soil resources; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 413

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 413, a bill to amend the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 and the Revised Statutes of the United States to prohibit financial holding companies and national banks from engaging, directly or indirectly, in real estate brokerage or real estate management activities, and for other purposes.

S. 994

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) were added as cosponsors of S. 994, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate the deductible and change the method of determining the mileage reimbursement rate under the beneficiary travel program administered by the Secretary of Veteran Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 1175

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1175, a bill to end the use of child soldiers in hostilities around the world, and for other purposes.

S. 1199

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1199, a bill to strengthen the capacity of eligible institutions to provide instruction in nanotechnology.

S. 1328

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1328, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate discrimination in the immigration laws by permitting permanent partners of United States citizens and lawful permanent residents to obtain lawful permanent resident status in the same manner as spouses of citizens and lawful permanent residents and to penalize immigration fraud in connection with permanent partnerships.

S. 1335

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1335, a bill to amend title 4, United States Code, to declare English as the official language of the Govern-

ment of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1792

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1792, a bill to amend the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act to improve such Act.

S. 1848

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1848, a bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to address the impact of globalization, to reauthorize trade adjustment assistance, to extend trade adjustment assistance to service workers, communities, firms, and farmers, and for other purposes.

S. 1881

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1881, a bill to amend the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 to restore the intent and protections of that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1954

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1954, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to pharmacies under part D.

S. 1970

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1970, a bill to establish a National Commission on Children and Disasters, a National Resource Center on Children and Disasters, and for other purposes.

S. 2136

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2136, a bill to address the treatment of primary mortgages in bankruptcy, and for other purposes.

S. 2143

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2143, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to establish a program to improve the health and education of children through grants to expand school breakfast programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2303

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2303, a bill to amend section 435(o) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 regarding the definition of economic hardship.

S. 2438

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2438, a bill to repeal certain provisions of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act.

S. 2471

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from New York

(Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2471, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the enforcement of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994, and for other purposes.

S. 2477

At the request of Mr. DEMINT, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2477, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for cooperative governing of individual health insurance coverage offered in interstate commerce.

S. 2543

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2543, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking minors across State lines in circumvention of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions.

S. 2550

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) were added as cosponsors of S. 2550, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from collecting certain debts owed to the United States by members of the Armed Forces and veterans who die as a result of an injury incurred or aggravated on active duty in a combat zone, and for other purposes.

S. 2559

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2559, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to increase the level of earnings under which no individual who is blind is determined to have demonstrated an ability to engage in substantial gainful activity for purposes of determining disability.

S. 2566

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2566, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a Federal income tax credit for certain home purchases.

S. 2569

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2569, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Director of the National Cancer Institute to make grants for the discovery and validation of biomarkers for use in risk stratification for, and the early detection and screening of, ovarian cancer.

S. 2575

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ) and the Senator from Min-

nesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2575, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to remove certain limitations on the transfer of entitlement to basic educational assistance under Montgomery GI Bill, and for other purposes.

S. 2578

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2578, a bill to temporarily delay application of proposed changes to Medicaid payment rules for case management and targeted case management services.

S. RES. 390

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 390, a resolution designating March 11, 2008, as National Funeral Director and Mortician Recognition Day.

S. RES. 434

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 434, a resolution designating the week of February 10–16, 2008, as “National Drug Prevention and Education Week”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3909

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3909 proposed to S. 2248, an original bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, to modernize and streamline the provisions of that Act, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. BOND, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3909 proposed to S. 2248, supra.

AMENDMENT NO. 3932

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3932 proposed to S. 2248, an original bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, to modernize and streamline the provisions of that Act, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3960

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3960 proposed to S. 2248, an original bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, to modernize and streamline the provisions of that Act, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3967

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3967 intended to be proposed

to S. 2483, a bill to authorize certain programs and activities in the Forest Service, the Department of the Interior, and the Department of Energy, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. 2583. A bill to amend the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002 (31 U.S.C. 3321 note) in order to prevent the loss of billions in taxpayer dollars; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act of 2008.

At first glance, a bill with a name like that might not seem too exciting. But I can assure my colleagues that it addresses a serious, largely unknown problem that is a real threat to our fiscal well being.

Each year, agencies are required to look at all of their programs and activities and determine which are susceptible to significant improper payments. For those that are deemed at risk, agencies must produce estimated error rates that are included in their year-end financial statements. They must also come up with action plans for reducing their errors.

In fiscal year 2007, agencies are estimated to have made nearly \$55 billion in improper payments. That is an astounding number, Mr. President.

We spend so much time around here throwing around numbers like \$55 billion that they begin to lose their meaning. So I want to take a minute or so to put that number in perspective.

I was surprised to learn that \$55 billion is more than the total budget for the Department of Homeland Security. It is also twice as much as we're projected to spend to protect the vehicles our soldiers are using in Iraq against roadside bombs.

To illustrate further the amount of money we are talking about, \$55 billion is just a little bit less than the total GDP of Vietnam. It is a little bit more than the GDPs of Croatia and Slovakia. Most astoundingly, \$55 billion equals the combined GDPs of 44 of the smaller countries in the world.

So our Federal Government is likely wasting more money than the total populations of many countries produce in a given year.

But \$55 billion is not even a real number. It is likely just the tip of the iceberg. It includes no error estimates for massive programs like TANF, SCHIP, and the Medicare Prescription Drug Program. So I expect that we will see more than \$55 billion in improper payments next year and the year after.

My colleagues and I on the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management have held six hearings focused on this issue now, including one this afternoon. What we