

S. 1789. A bill to restore fairness to Federal cocaine sentencing; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DORGAN (for himself, Mr. REID, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. TESTER, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BURRIS, Mr. INOUE, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 1790. A bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to revise and extend that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 1791. A bill to establish the Honorable Stephanie Tubbs Jones Fire Suppression Demonstration Incentive Program within the Department of Education to promote installation of fire sprinkler systems, or other fire suppression or prevention technologies, in qualified student housing and dormitories, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 1792. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the requirements for windows, doors, and skylights to be eligible for the credit for nonbusiness energy property; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 1793. An original bill to amend title XXVI of the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend the program for providing life-saving care for those with HIV/AIDS; from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; placed on the calendar.

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

S. 1794. A bill to authorize and request the President to award the Medal of Honor posthumously to Captain Emil Kapaun of the United States Army for acts of valor during the Korean War; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 1795. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to permit certain revenues of private providers of public transportation by vanpool received from providing public transportation to be used for the purpose of acquiring rolling stock, and to permit certain expenditures of private vanpool contractors to be credited toward the local matching share of the costs of public transportation projects; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 46

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) were added as cosponsors of S. 46, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps.

S. 451

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 451, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America.

S. 461

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Alabama

(Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 461, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 546

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 546, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation.

S. 619

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 619, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to preserve the effectiveness of medically important antibiotics used in the treatment of human and animal diseases.

S. 658

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 658, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve health care for veterans who live in rural areas, and for other purposes.

S. 663

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 663, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish the Merchant Mariner Equity Compensation Fund to provide benefits to certain individuals who served in the United States merchant marine (including the Army Transport Service and the Naval Transport Service) during World War II.

S. 727

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 727, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit certain conduct relating to the use of horses for human consumption.

S. 729

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. KAUFMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 729, a bill to amend the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to permit States to determine State residency for higher education purposes and to authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain alien students who are long-term United States residents and who entered the United States as children, and for other purposes.

S. 823

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from California

(Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 823, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a 5-year carryback of operating losses, and for other purposes.

S. 831

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 831, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to include service after September 11, 2001, as service qualifying for the determination of a reduced eligibility age for receipt of non-regular service retired pay.

S. 870

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 870, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the credit for renewable electricity production to include electricity produced from biomass for on-site use and to modify the credit period for certain facilities producing electricity from open-loop biomass.

S. 956

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 956, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to exempt unsanctioned State-licensed retail pharmacies from the surety bond requirement under the Medicare Program for suppliers of durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies (DMEPOS).

S. 1056

At the request of Mr. VOINOVICH, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1056, a bill to establish a commission to develop legislation designed to reform tax policy and entitlement benefit programs and ensure a sound fiscal future for the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1076

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1076, a bill to improve the accuracy of fur product labeling, and for other purposes.

S. 1136

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1136, a bill to establish a chronic care improvement demonstration program for Medicaid beneficiaries with severe mental illnesses.

S. 1147

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1147, a bill to prevent tobacco smuggling, to ensure the collection of all tobacco taxes, and for other purposes.

S. 1171

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) was added as a cosponsor of

S. 1171, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to restore State authority to waive the 35-mile rule for designating critical access hospitals under the Medicare Program.

S. 1177

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1177, a bill to improve consumer protections for purchasers of long-term care insurance, and for other purposes.

S. 1304

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1304, a bill to restore the economic rights of automobile dealers, and for other purposes.

S. 1340

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1340, a bill to establish a minimum funding level for programs under the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 for fiscal years 2010 to 2014 that ensures a reasonable growth in victim programs without jeopardizing the long-term sustainability of the Crime Victims Fund.

S. 1360

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1360, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income amounts received on account of claims based on certain unlawful discrimination and to allow income averaging for backpay and frontpay awards received on account of such claims, and for other purposes.

S. 1421

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1421, a bill to amend section 42 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the importation and shipment of certain species of carp.

S. 1584

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1584, a bill to prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

S. 1608

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1608, a bill to prepare young people in disadvantaged situations for a competitive future.

S. 1685

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1685, a bill to provide an emergency benefit of \$250 to seniors, veterans, and persons with disabilities in 2010 to compensate for the lack of a cost-of-living adjustment for such year, and for other purposes.

S. 1700

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1700, a bill to require certain issuers to disclose payments to foreign governments for the commercial development of oil, natural gas, and minerals, to express the sense of Congress that the President should disclose any payment relating to the commercial development of oil, natural gas, and minerals on Federal land, and for other purposes.

S. 1723

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1723, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to delegate management authority over troubled assets purchased under the Troubled Asset Relief Program, to require the establishment of a trust to manage assets of certain designated TARP recipients, and for other purposes.

S. 1776

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1776, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the update under the Medicare physician fee schedule for years beginning with 2010 and to sunset the application of the sustainable growth rate formula, and for other purposes.

S. 1783

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1783, a bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to provide for country of origin labeling for dairy products.

S. RES. 307

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 307, a resolution to require that all legislative matters be available and fully scored by CBO 72 hours before consideration by any subcommittee or committee of the Senate or on the floor of the Senate.

S. RES. 312

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 312, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on empowering and strengthening the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. FRANKEN:

S. 1788. A bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to issue an occupational safety and health standard to reduce injuries to patients, direct-care registered

nurses, and all other health care workers by establishing a safe patient handling and injury prevention standard, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, today I am introducing a bill to help keep our country's invaluable nurses and health care workers safe from debilitating injuries suffered on the job. This legislation will require workplace standards that eliminate the manual lifting of patients—the primary cause of musculoskeletal disorders in the health care profession. And I want to first thank my colleague in the House, Representative CONYERS of Michigan's 14th District, for his leadership on this issue and for the impressive work he put into crafting this bill.

When we think of dangerous working conditions, mines or construction sites might come to mind. But in fact, work performed in hospitals and nursing homes contributes to thousands of cases of musculoskeletal disorders in nurses and health care workers each year. These injuries require time away from work, and unfortunately, many workers suffering from chronic back injury are forced to leave the profession permanently. Nurses and health care workers deserve better—they shouldn't have to sacrifice their safety and their livelihood to help others, especially when many of these injuries could be prevented.

The manual lifting of patients is the primary cause of musculoskeletal injuries, and can be eliminated with the use of lifting equipment. Many health care facilities already have this equipment available, and studies have shown that it reduces injuries to workers, increases safety for patients, and is a cost-effective investment over several years.

This legislation would require the Department of Labor to propose standards for safe patient handling to prevent musculoskeletal disorders for health care workers, and eliminate manual lifting of patients through the use of lift equipment. It would also require health care facilities to develop safe patient handling plans and provide training on safe patient handling techniques.

Under the bill, health care workers would have the right to refuse assignments that are not in compliance with safe patient handling standards and be protected from employer retaliation against workers who refuse these assignments or report violations.

To help health care facilities to make this transition, the bill creates a new grant program for needy health care facilities that require financial assistance to purchase safe patient handling equipment.

I urge my colleagues to support the Nurse and Health Care Worker Protection Act. All of us benefit from the services these professionals provide, and by passing this legislation, we can help ensure they are able to safely continue in their important careers.