

is a generosity, a resilience, a decency, and a determination that perseveres; a willingness to take responsibility for our future and for posterity.

Their resolve must be our inspiration. Their concerns must be our cause. And we must show them and all our people that we are equal to the task before us.

I know that we haven't agreed on every issue thus far, and there are surely times in the future when we will part ways. But I also know that every American who is sitting here tonight loves this country and wants it to succeed. That must be the starting point for every debate we have in the coming months, and where we return after those debates are done. That is the foundation on which the American people expect us to build common ground.

And if we do—if we come together and lift this Nation from the depths of this crisis; if we put our people back to work and restart the engine of our prosperity; if we confront without fear the challenges of our time and summon that enduring spirit of an America that does not quit, then someday years from now our children can tell their children that this was the time when we performed, in the words that are carved into this very chamber, "something worthy to be remembered." Thank you, God Bless you, and may God Bless the United States of America.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 24, 2009.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:31 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 44. An act to implement the recommendations of the Guam War Claims Review Commission.

H.R. 601. An act to provide for the conveyance of parcels of land to Mantua, Box Elder County, Utah.

H.R. 603. An act to require the conveyance of certain public land within the boundaries of Camp Williams, Utah, to support the training and readiness of the Utah National Guard.

H.R. 714. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to lease certain lands in Virgin Islands National Park, and for other purposes.

H.R. 911. An act to require certain standards and enforcement provisions to prevent child abuse and neglect in residential programs, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 44. An act to implement the recommendations of the Guam War Claims Review Commission; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 601. An act to provide for the conveyance of parcels of land to Mantua, Box Elder County, Utah; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 603. An act to require the conveyance of certain public land within the boundaries of Camp Williams, Utah, to support the training and readiness of the Utah National Guard; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 714. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to lease certain lands in Virgin Islands National Park, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 911. An act to require certain standards and enforcement provisions to prevent child abuse and neglect in residential programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. INOUE, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special Report entitled "Further Revised Allocation to Subcommittees" (Rept. No. 111-4).

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. THUNE (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 457. A bill to establish pilot projects under the Medicare program to provide incentives for home health agencies to utilize home monitoring and communications technologies; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. SPECTER, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 458. A bill to amend the False Claims Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. McCASKILL (for herself and Mr. CORKER):

S. 459. A bill to improve and enhance substance use disorder programs for members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

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

S. 460. A bill to amend the Agriculture Marketing Act of 1946 to foster efficient markets and increase competition and transparency among packers that purchase livestock from producers; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mrs. LINCOLN (for herself and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 461. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mr. VITTER):

S. 462. A bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to prohibit the importation, exportation, transportation, and sale, receipt, acquisition, or purchase in interstate or foreign commerce, of any live animal of any prohibited wildlife species, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 463. A bill to impose limitations on certain expenditures by participants in the Troubled Asset Relief Program; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr.

CASEY, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, and Mr. NELSON of Florida):

S. 464. A bill to amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to improve the educational awards provided for national service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. NELSON of Florida):

S. 465. A bill to amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to establish a Semester of Service grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CASEY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, and Mr. NELSON of Florida):

S. 466. A bill to amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to establish a Summer of Service State grant program, a Summer of Service national direct grant program, and related national activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CASEY, Mr. KOHL, and Mr. NELSON of Florida):

S. 467. A bill to amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to establish Encore Service Programs, Encore Fellowship Programs, and Silver Scholarship Programs, 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 Mrs. LINCOLN (for herself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. CHAMBLISS, and Mr. BENNETT):

S. Res. 53. A resolution authorizing a plaque commemorating the role of enslaved African Americans in the construction of the Capitol; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 61

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 61, a bill to amend title 11 of the United States Code with respect to modification of certain mortgages on principal residences, and for other purposes.

S. 144

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 144, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove cell phones from listed property under section 280F.

S. 160

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 160, a bill to provide the District of Columbia a voting seat and the State of Utah an additional seat in the House of Representatives.

S. 167

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs.

GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 167, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to enhance the COPS ON THE BEAT grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 254

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 254, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of home infusion therapy under the Medicare Program.

S. 316

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 316, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the reduction in the rate of tax on qualified timber gain of corporations, and for other purposes.

S. 343

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 343, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage services of qualified respiratory therapists performed under the general supervision of a physician.

S. 354

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 354, a bill to provide that 4 of the 12 weeks of parental leave made available to a Federal employee shall be paid leave, and for other purposes.

S. 371

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 371, a bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to allow citizens who have concealed carry permits from the State in which they reside to carry concealed firearms in another State that grants concealed carry permits, if the individual complies with the laws of the State.

S. 381

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 381, a bill to express the policy of the United States regarding the United States relationship with Native Hawaiians, to provide a process for the reorganization of a Native Hawaiian and the recognition by the United States of the Native Hawaiian government, and for other purposes.

S. 390

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 390, a bill to expand the authority of the Secretary of the Air Force to convey certain relocatable military housing units to Indian tribes located in Idaho and Nevada.

S. 395

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 395, a bill to direct the Librarian of Congress and the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution to carry out a joint project at the Library of Congress and the National Museum of African American History and Culture to collect video and audio recording of personal histories and testimonials of individuals who participated in the Civil Rights movement, and for other purposes.

S. 407

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 407, a bill to increase, effective as of December 1, 2009, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 456

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 456, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, to develop guidelines to be used on a voluntary basis to develop plans to manage the risk of food allergy and anaphylaxis in schools and early childhood education programs, to establish school-based food allergy management grants, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 9

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 9, a resolution commemorating 90 years of U.S.-Polish diplomatic relations, during which Poland has proven to be an exceptionally strong partner to the United States in advancing freedom around the world.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. SPECTER, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):
S. 458. A bill to amend the False Claims Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I am here as part of what I am calling "Accountability in Government Week." I plan to introduce various bills this week that will strengthen oversight of Government programs, integrity of taxpayer-funded initiatives, and bring sunshine to the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of our Government. These bills are important and will help all Americans better understand their Government in addition to making sure taxpayers' dollars are not lost to fraud, waste, and abuse.

The first bill I am introducing this week, and am introducing today, is the

False Claims Clarification Act of 2009. I am glad to be joined by my original cosponsor, Mr. DURBIN, the majority whip, the Senator from Illinois, who has worked closely with me in crafting this legislation that will update the 1986 amendments to the False Claims Act I authored.

This legislation is similar to a version that was introduced in the last Congress that cleared the Judiciary Committee by unanimous voice vote. We have made some updates to the bill that was the result of sitting down with various interested parties and hearing their concerns. We made a commitment last Congress to move that bill through regular order to ensure that all interested stakeholders had a say. I believe this version of the bill not only clarifies the original intent of the 1986 amendments but also makes a number of modifications that strengthen the False Claims Act and will help the Government recover taxpayers' dollars lost to fraud and abuse for years to come.

Senator DURBIN and I are also joined by other original cosponsors, including Senator LEAHY, whom you recognize is the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, and Senator SPECTER, its ranking member, and Senator WHITEHOUSE, a member of the committee. It is a bipartisan bill that is about protecting taxpayers' dollars and strengthening the Government's hand in combating fraud.

A little history: Back in 1986, the Government was in a situation that had some parallel to today's economic situation. Government military expenditures were a significant portion of the budget, and there was ample evidence of fraud and abuse in Government contracts. Today, we are facing an economic situation where the Government is now on the hook for trillions of dollars in new Government spending in an attempt to jump-start our ailing economy. That is compounded by the fact that the Treasury Department has taken unprecedented steps to bail out financial institutions with hundreds of billions of taxpayers' dollars.

I am concerned this new Government spending has occurred too quickly and could be ripe with opportunities for fraud and abuse. I would say there are 99 other Senators who can say the same thing. But that is the reason this legislation is timely and urgently needed.

The False Claims Act, which is also known as Lincoln's Law, was originally passed by Congress in 1865 to combat war profiteering by Government contractors during the Civil War. The False Claims Act allowed individual citizen whistleblowers to go to court to collect Government money that was lost to unscrupulous contractors that were selling false or fraudulent goods to Union troops. This legal mechanism, known as *qui tam*—Q-U-I T-A-M, for you Latin lovers—is the key component to the False Claims Act, allowing individual citizens to act as private