

Whereas, studies like eating out with obesity and higher caloric intakes. Foods that people eat from restaurants and other food-service establishments are generally higher in calories and saturated fat and lower in nutrients, such as calcium and fiber, than home-prepared foods; and

Whereas, while nutrition labeling is currently required on most packaged foods, this information is required only for restaurant foods for which nutrient content or health claims are made; and

Whereas, three-quarters of American adults report using food labels on packaged foods, which are required by the Nutrition Labeling and Education Act and went into effect in 1994. Using food labels is associated with eating healthier diets, and approximately 48 percent of people report that the nutrition information on food labels has caused them to change their minds about buying a food product. Research shows that people make healthier choices when restaurants provide point-of-purchase nutrition information; and

Whereas, it is difficult for consumers to limit their intake of calories at restaurants, given the limited availability of nutrition information, as well as the popular practice by many restaurants of providing foods in larger-than-standard servings and 'super-sized' portions; and

Whereas, the enacting of a federal Meal Act would provide all Americans valuable additional nutritional information that will best equip individuals and allow them to make healthy choices when they are consuming prepared foods outside of the home: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

Section 1. The Senate of the Commonwealth of Kentucky hereby urges the 111th United States Congress to enact a federal Menu Education and Labeling (Meal) Act.

Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate shall forward a copy of this Resolution to the Clerk of the United States Senate and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LIEBERMAN, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 303. A bill to reauthorize and improve the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999 (Rept. No. 111-7).

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. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. KYL, Mr. CORKER, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. ENZI, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. VITTER, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. JOHANNIS, Mr. MARTINEZ, and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 567. A bill to repeal the sunset on the reduction of capital gains rates for individuals and on the taxation of dividends of individuals at capital gains rates; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRAPO:

S. 568. A bill for the relief of Sali Bregaj and Mjaftime Bregaj; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. 569. A bill to ensure that persons who form corporations in the United States disclose the beneficial owners of those corporations, in order to prevent wrongdoers from exploiting United States corporations for criminal gain, to assist law enforcement in detecting, preventing, and punishing terrorism, money laundering, and other misconduct involving United States corporations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. COBURN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ENZI, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. BOND):

S. 570. A bill to stimulate the economy and create jobs at no cost to the taxpayers, and without borrowing money from foreign governments for which our children and grandchildren will be responsible, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. DODD):

S. 571. A bill to strengthen the Nation's research efforts to identify the causes and cure of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis, expand psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis data collection, and study access to and quality of care for people with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WEBB (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, and Mrs. LINCOLN):

S. 572. A bill to provide for the issuance of a "forever stamp" to honor the sacrifices of the brave men and women of the armed forces who have been awarded the Purple Heart; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. TESTER:

S. 573. A bill to improve the efficiency of customs and other services at the Wild Horse, Montana port of entry; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. CARPER, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 574. A bill to enhance citizen access to Government information and services by establishing that Government documents issued to the public must be written clearly, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. SPECTER):

S. 575. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to develop plans and targets for States and metropolitan planning organizations to develop plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 69

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 69, a bill to establish a fact-finding Commission to extend the study of a prior Commission to investigate and determine facts and circumstances surrounding the relocation, internment, and deportation to Axis countries of Latin Americans of Japanese descent from December 1941

through February 1948, and the impact of those actions by the United States, and to recommend appropriate remedies, and for other purposes.

S. 211

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 211, a bill to facilitate nationwide availability of 2-1-1 telephone service for information and referral on human services and volunteer services, and for other purposes.

S. 388

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 388, a bill to extend the termination date for the exemption of returning workers from the numerical limitations for temporary workers.

S. 416

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 416, a bill to limit the use of cluster munitions.

S. 423

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) were added as cosponsors of S. 423, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize advance appropriations for certain medical care accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs by providing two-fiscal year budget authority, and for other purposes.

S. 428

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 428, a bill to allow travel between the United States and Cuba.

S. 488

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 488, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans to provide coverage for individuals participating in approved cancer clinical trials.

S. 503

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) were added as cosponsors of S. 503, a bill to authorize the exploration, leasing, development, and production of oil and gas in and from the western portion of the Coastal Plain of the State of Alaska without surface occupancy, and for other purposes.

S. 527

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Missouri

(Mrs. McCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 527, a bill to amend the Clean Air act to prohibit the issuance of permits under title V of that Act for certain emissions from agricultural production.

S. 535

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 535, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 541

At the request of Mr. DODD, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG) and the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) were added as cosponsors of S. 541, a bill to increase the borrowing authority of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and for other purposes.

S. 546

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) 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 of Combat-Related Special Compensation.

S. RES. 60

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 60, a resolution commemorating the 10-year anniversary of the accession of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Hungary, and the Republic of Poland as members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

S. RES. 70

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 70, a resolution congratulating the people of the Republic of Lithuania on the 1000th anniversary of Lithuania and celebrating the rich history of Lithuania.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mrs. McCASKILL)

S. 569. A bill to ensure that persons who form corporations in the United States disclose the beneficial owners of those corporations, in order to prevent wrongdoers from exploiting United States corporations for criminal gain, to assist law enforcement in detecting, preventing, and punishing terrorism, money laundering, and other mis-

conduct involving United States corporations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I am introducing today, with my colleagues Senator GRASSLEY and Senator McCASKILL, the Incorporation Transparency and Law Enforcement Assistance Act. This bill tackles a longstanding homeland security problem involving inadequate State incorporation practices that leave this country unnecessarily vulnerable to wrongdoers, hinders law enforcement, and damages the international stature of the United States.

The problem is straightforward. Each year, our States allow persons to form nearly 2 million corporations and limited liability companies in this country without knowing, or even asking, who the beneficial owners are behind those corporations. Right now, a person forming a U.S. corporation or limited liability company, LLC, provides less information to the State than is required to open a bank account or obtain a driver's license. Instead, States routinely permit persons to form corporations and LLCs under State laws without disclosing the names of any of the people who will control or benefit from them.

It is a fact that criminals are exploiting this weakness in our State incorporation practices. They are forming new U.S. corporations and LLCs, and using these entities to commit crimes ranging from drug trafficking, money laundering, tax evasion, financial fraud, and corruption.

Law enforcement authorities investigating these crimes have complained loudly for years about the lack of beneficial ownership information. Last year, for example, the U.S. Department of the Treasury sent a letter to the States stating: "the lack of transparency with respect to the individuals who control privately held for-profit legal entities created in the United States continues to represent a substantial vulnerability in the U.S. anti-money laundering/counter terrorist financing (AML/CFT) regime. . . . [T]he use of U.S. companies to mask the identity of criminals presents an ongoing and substantial problem . . . for U.S. and global law enforcement authorities."

Michael Chertoff, former Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, wrote the following:

In countless investigations, where the criminal targets utilize shell corporations, the lack of law enforcement's ability to gain access to true beneficial ownership information slows, confuses or impedes the efforts by investigators to follow criminal proceeds. This is the case in financial fraud, terrorist financing and money laundering investigations. . . . It is imperative that States maintain beneficial ownership information while the company is active and to have a set time frame for preserving those records. . . . Shell companies can be sold and resold to several beneficial owners in the course of a year or less. . . . By maintaining records not only of

the initial beneficial ownership but of the subsequent beneficial owners, States will provide law enforcement the tools necessary to clearly identify the individuals who utilized the company at any given period of time.

These types of complaints by U.S. law enforcement, their pleas for assistance, and their warnings about the dangers of anonymous U.S. corporations operating here and abroad are catalogued in a stack of reports and hearing testimony from the Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security, the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network of the Department of the Treasury, the Internal Revenue Service, and others.

To add insult to injury, our law enforcement officials have too often had to stand silent when asked by their counterparts in other countries for information about who owns a U.S. corporation committing crimes in their jurisdictions. The reality is that the United States can't answer those requests, because we don't have the information.

Our bill would cure the problem by requiring State incorporation forms to include a request for the names of a corporation's beneficial owners. States would not be required to verify the information, but civil or criminal penalties would apply to persons who submitted false information. If law enforcement issued a subpoena or summons to obtain the ownership information, States would then supply the data contained on its forms.

This bill has received the support of numerous law enforcement associations, including the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Association of Assistant United States Attorneys, the National Narcotic Officers' Associations Coalition, the United States Marshals Service Association, and the Association of Former ATF Agents.

The Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, FLEOA, for example, which represents more than 26,000 Federal law enforcement officers, states that "the unfortunate lax attitude demonstrated by certain states has enabled large criminal enterprises to exploit those state's flawed filing systems." FLEOA goes on:

We regard corporate ownership in the same manner as we do vehicle ownership. Requiring the driver of a vehicle to have a registration and insurance card is not a violation of their privacy. This information does not need to be published in a Yellow Pages, but it should be available to law enforcement officers who make legally authorized requests pursuant to official investigations.

The National Association of Assistant United States Attorneys, NAAUSA, which represents more than 1,500 Federal prosecutors, urges Congress to take legislative action to remedy inadequate State incorporation practices. NAAUSA states:

[M]indful of the ease with which criminals establish 'front organizations' to assist in money laundering, terrorist financing, tax