

populations in Alaska and Hawaii; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HELLER (for himself, Mr. BURR, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 1442. A bill to provide that Members of Congress may not receive pay after October 1 of any fiscal year in which Congress has not approved a concurrent resolution on the budget; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 1443. A bill to extend certain trade preferences to certain least-developed countries in Asia and the South Pacific, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 1444. A bill to provide for the presentation of a United States flag on behalf of Federal civilian employees who are killed while performing official duties or because of their status as Federal employees; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 1445. A bill to designate certain conduct by car and truck rental companies relating to motor vehicle safety defects and recalls as unfair and deceptive acts or practices to be regulated by the Federal Trade Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. COBURN (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. LEE, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. PAUL, Mr. VITTER, Mr. KYL, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. COATS, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. BURR, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 1446. A bill to free States to spend gas taxes on their transportation priorities; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 1447. A bill to amend the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act to authorize the use of grant funds for dating violence prevention, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PRYOR (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 1448. A bill to exempt off-highway vehicles from the ban on lead in children's products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 48

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 48, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of pharmacists in National Health Services Corps programs, and for other purposes.

S. 252

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 252, a bill to permit a State to elect to receive the contributions of the State to the Highway Trust Fund in lieu of the Federal-aid highway program apportionment of the State for the subsequent fiscal year, and for other purposes.

S. 260

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 260, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation.

S. 387

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) were added as cosponsors of S. 387, a bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to provide flexible spending arrangements for members of uniformed services, and for other purposes.

S. 401

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 401, a bill to help Federal prosecutors and investigators combat public corruption by strengthening and clarifying the law.

S. 409

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 409, a bill to ban the sale of certain synthetic drugs.

S. 797

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 797, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

S. 961

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 961, a bill to create the income security conditions and family supports needed to ensure permanency for the Nation's unaccompanied youth, and for other purposes.

S. 1025

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1025, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance the national defense through empowerment of the National Guard, enhancement of the functions of the National Guard Bureau, and improvement of Federal-State military coordination in domestic emergency response, and for other purposes.

S. 1048

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1048, a bill to expand sanctions imposed with respect to the Islamic Republic of Iran, North Korea, and Syria, and for other purposes.

S. 1061

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs.

HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1061, a bill to amend title 5 and 28, United States Code, with respect to the award of fees and other expenses in cases brought against agencies of the United States, to require the Administrative Conference of the United States to compile, and make publically available, certain data relating to the Equal Access to Justice Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1251

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1251, a bill to amend title XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to curb waste, fraud, and abuse in the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

S. 1265

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1265, a bill to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 to provide consistent and reliable authority for, and for the funding of, the land and water conservation fund to maximize the effectiveness of the fund for future generations, and for other purposes.

S. 1359

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1359, a bill to make the National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands Pass available at a discount to members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

S. 1392

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) were added as cosponsors of S. 1392, a bill to provide additional time for the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to issue achievable standards for industrial, commercial, and institutional boilers, process heaters, and incinerators, and for other purposes.

S. 1433

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 1433, a bill to pay personnel compensation and benefits for employees of the Federal Aviation Administration.

S. RES. 132

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 132, a resolution recognizing and honoring

the zoos and aquariums of the United States.

S. RES. 216

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 216, a resolution encouraging women's political participation in Saudi Arabia.

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 216, supra.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 1435. A bill to amend part A of title IV of the Security Act to exclude child care from the determination of the 5-year limit on assistance under the temporary assistance for needy families program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, today too many families are at risk of losing the child care assistance that helps maintain their financial stability and ensure the well-being of their children. That is why I am introducing the Children First Act to address the growing unmet need for affordable and safe child care.

Until now, most states were able to maintain their child care assistance programs through the recession due to the additional \$2 billion in Federal Child Care and Development Block Grant, CCDBG, funding for 2009 and 2010 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, ARRA.

However, with only a portion of these ARRA funds being continued, and with persistent state budget gaps, many states are forced to scale back child care assistance for families. Some states' waiting lists for subsidized child care are beginning to rise and a few states have stopped or plan to stop providing child care assistance to families who are not receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, TANF, together.

Cuts and restrictions in the availability of child care assistance make it harder for parents to afford child care and have forced some parents to leave their jobs and turn to welfare programs for support. Children lose access to the stable, good-quality child care that encourages their learning and development and prepares them for school success. And child care programs can find difficulty filling their classrooms, leading them to lay off staff or close their doors entirely. That is wrong and we can do better.

Child care consumes a large portion of family budgets, and can cost up to \$18,773 annually for full-time care depending on where the family lives, the type of care, and the age of the child. Child care prices are higher than other household expenses and typically exceed the average amount families spend on food. In 39 States and the Dis-

trict of Columbia, the average annual price for child care for an infant in a child care center was higher than even a year's tuition at some 4-year public colleges.

Without assistance, many low-income families can find it impossible to secure child care. For example, in 2007, the median monthly income of families receiving child care assistance was just \$16,680 a year. Nearly half, 49 percent, of families receiving child care assistance live below the poverty line and 86 percent of these families were single parent households. In these challenging economic times, it is especially important to help low and moderate-income families with their child care costs.

The Children First Act which I am introducing today will help address the growing unmet need for affordable and safe child care. It will help—States meet the significant demand for child care assistance by increasing funding for mandatory child care by \$500 million for fiscal year 2012, \$700 million in 2013, and \$750 million in 2014 thru 2021, resulting in an increase of \$3.45 billion over 5 years and \$7.2 billion over 10 years.

This increase is necessary because only about one in six children eligible for Federal child care assistance receives help and there have been no increases in mandatory' child care funding since 2007. This increased funding will be used to provide approximately 212,000 additional children access to safe and affordable child care as compared to current funding levels.

The Children First Act would exclude child care from the definition of TANF assistance so that unemployed families who receive child care assistance will not have it count towards the 5-year time limit for Federal TANF assistance. The legislation would also ensure that the minimum child care health and safety standards required for providers receiving Child Care Development Block Grant, CCDBG, funding also apply to providers who receive funding through TANF. In Massachusetts, all licensed providers are required to the same health and safety standards regardless of subsidy type received.

This legislation would increase the availability of child care for parents who are required to work. States are currently prohibited from withholding or reducing assistance to a single parent with children under 6 who does not meet work requirements for reasons related to the unavailability or unsuitability of appropriate, affordable child care arrangements. The Children First Act would prevent States from withholding or reducing cash assistance to parents of a child with children under age thirteen.

Enactment of this legislation is incredibly important for my home State of Massachusetts which currently has approximately 24,000 children on a waitlist for child care subsidies. The high cost of child care is the most significant issue facing families currently

on the waitlist in Massachusetts. Massachusetts families pay more on average than families in all other states for child care, with the average price of full time care in center based settings totaling \$18,773 for an infant and \$13,158 for a preschooler. This legislation will help lower the waitlist and help our children become more productive citizens.

I would like to thank a number of organizations who have been integral to the development of the Children First Act and who have endorsed it today, including the including the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, AFSCME, the Children's Defense Fund, CLASP, the National Women's Law Center, and the Service Employees International Union, SEIU.

These reforms would significantly increase access to stable and affordable child care to low-income families and would make our Nation's children more prepared for school and success later in life. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate to pass this legislation.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 1437. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out programs to provide youth in racial or ethnic minority or immigrant communities the information and skills needed to reduce teenage pregnancies; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Communities of Color Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Act.

Teen pregnancy is closely linked to a number of issues that affect the welfare of children in our Nation, particularly child poverty. A child in the United States is nine times more likely to grow up in poverty if their mother gave birth when she was a teen, if the child's parents are unmarried when they are born, and if the mother did not graduate from high school.

The United States has the highest teen pregnancy rate of any developed nation. Each year close to 750,000 teens in the United States become pregnant. Despite some progress in reducing teen pregnancy overall, many minority communities continue to struggle with disproportionately high rates of teen pregnancy.

Over half of all Latina and African American girls will become pregnant at least once before they turn 20. In 2009 the teen birth rate for Latinas, African Americans and American Indians/Alaska Natives was more than double the teen birth rate of non-Hispanic Caucasians.

The Communities of Color Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Act takes would address teen pregnancy in communities of color by supporting teenage pregnancy prevention programs that work with community-based organizations that are experienced in serving youth