

MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1360, a bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require shareholder authorization before a public company may make certain political expenditures, and for other purposes.

S. 1392

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor 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. 1397

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1397, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an investment tax credit related to the production of electricity from offshore wind.

S. 1451

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1451, a bill to prohibit the sale of billfish.

S. 1465

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1465, a bill to authorize a pilot program on enhancements of Department of Defense efforts on mental health in the National Guard and Reserves through community partnerships, and for other purposes.

S. 1544

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1544, a bill to amend the Securities Act of 1933 to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to exempt a certain class of securities from such Act.

S. 1593

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1593, a bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to require State electronic benefit transfer contracts to treat wireless program retail food stores in the same manner as wired program retail food stores.

S. 1634

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1634, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the approval and disapproval of programs of education for purposes of educational benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 1670

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 1670, a bill to eliminate racial profiling by law enforcement, and for other purposes.

S. 1711

At the request of Mr. BROWN of Ohio, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1711, a bill to enhance reciprocal market access for United States domestic producers in the negotiating process of bilateral, regional, and multilateral trade agreements.

S. 1763

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1763, a bill to decrease the incidence of violent crimes against Indian women, to strengthen the capacity of Indian tribes to exercise the sovereign authority of Indian tribes to respond to violent crimes committed against Indian women, and to ensure that perpetrators of violent crimes committed against Indian women are held accountable for that criminal behavior, and for other purposes.

S. 1850

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1850, a bill to expand and improve opportunities for beginning farmers and ranchers, and for other purposes.

S. 1872

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1872, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax treatment of ABLE accounts established under State programs for the care of family members with disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 1886

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1886, a bill to prevent trafficking in counterfeit drugs.

S. 1933

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1933, a bill to increase American job creation and economic growth by improving access to the public capital markets for emerging growth companies.

S. 1944

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1944, a bill to create jobs by providing payroll tax relief for middle class families and businesses, and for other purposes.

S. 1945

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) were added as co-

sponsors of S. 1945, a bill to permit the televising of Supreme Court proceedings.

S. RES. 297

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 297, a resolution congratulating the Corporation for Supportive Housing on the 20th anniversary of its founding.

S. RES. 310

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 310, a resolution designating 2012 as the "Year of the Girl" and Congratulating Girl Scouts of the USA on its 100th anniversary.

S. RES. 342

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 342, a resolution honoring the life and legacy of Laura Pollan.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 344—SUPPORTING THE DEMOCRATIC ASPIRATIONS OF THE NICARAGUAN PEOPLE AND CALLING ATTENTION TO THE DETERIORATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER IN NICARAGUA

Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S.RES. 344

Whereas in January 2007, President Daniel Ortega was inaugurated to a second 5-year presidential term, having served as President from 1985 to 1990;

Whereas as a result of widespread electoral fraud during the November 2008 municipal elections, Nicaragua lost more than \$100,000,000 in international assistance and a \$175,000,000 Millennium Challenge Compact was suspended;

Whereas Article 147 of the Constitution of Nicaragua states that a candidate cannot serve consecutively as President and that a President cannot serve more than 2 terms;

Whereas on October 19, 2009, the Sandinista-controlled Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Nicaragua issued a controversial ruling that partially annulled Article 147 of the Constitution of Nicaragua and allowed Daniel Ortega to run for a third presidential term;

Whereas the Department of State called the October 2009 Supreme Court ruling "... part of a larger pattern of questionable and irregular governmental actions, beginning before the flawed municipal elections of November 2008, that threatens to undermine the foundations of Nicaraguan democracy and calls into question the Nicaraguan government's commitment to uphold the Inter-American Democratic Charter";

Whereas the Constitution of Nicaragua gives the National Assembly sole power to elect Supreme Court magistrates, Supreme Electoral Council magistrates, and other national public officials;

Whereas in January 2010, President Ortega issued a decree that circumvented the National Assembly and indefinitely extended

the terms of 25 incumbent public officials, including members of the Supreme Court and the Supreme Electoral Council;

Whereas in August 2011, the Supreme Electoral Council announced that all international and national observers will be a part of the election and monitor the process under the mandate of an "accompaniment ruling", which included 25 articles, establishing, among other restrictions, who can participate, what their functions may be, the limits of their actions, and the process of accreditation to become an official observer;

Whereas on November 10, 2011, the Department of State noted ". . . the Nicaraguan Government's failure to accredit certain credible domestic organizations as observers, difficulties voters faced in obtaining proper identification and pronouncements by Nicaraguan authorities that electoral candidates might be disqualified after the elections" and agreed that "the Supreme Electoral Council did not operate in a transparent and impartial manner";

Whereas the European Union Election Observing Mission to Nicaragua noted that elections had been supervised by "electoral authorities with very little independence and equanimity" and it further deemed a "grave reversal to the democratic quality of Nicaraguan elections";

Whereas during the 2011 general elections in Nicaragua, the Mission of Electoral Accompaniment of the Organization of American States noted several "situations of concern", including problems providing identification cards to voters, the accreditation of observers, and imbalances in the political parties present at polling stations;

Whereas the Organization of American States called upon Nicaraguan authorities to investigate acts of violence perpetrated on election day; and

Whereas as a member of the Organization of American States and signatory to the Inter-American Democratic Charter, the Nicaraguan Government has the legal responsibility to abide by the principles of constitutional, representative democracy, which includes free and fair elections and adherence to their own constitution: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the democratic aspirations of the people of Nicaragua;

(2) deplors the interruption of constitutional order in Nicaragua that led to the fraudulent reelection of Daniel Ortega on November 6, 2011, elections;

(3) condemns the acts of violence perpetrated on election day and calls upon Nicaraguan authorities to fully investigate and prosecute those responsible;

(4) urges President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to take immediate and meaningful measures to encourage the restoration of constitutional rule in Nicaragua, including opposing loans by international financial institutions to the Nicaraguan Government;

(5) urges the immediate issuance of a final report on the Mission of Electoral Accompaniment of the Organization of American States, including a detailed report on constitutional irregularities impacting the preelectoral phase in Nicaragua; and

(6) urges the United States Ambassador to the Organization of American States to lead an effort to use the full power of the organization in support of meaningful steps to restore democracy and the rule of law in Nicaragua in accordance to the Inter-American Democratic Charter, including formally suspending the Nicaraguan Government under Articles 20 and 21 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Subcommittee on Children and Families of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet in open session on Tuesday, December 13, 2011, at 10:15 a.m. in SD-106 to conduct a hearing entitled "Breaking the Silence on Child Abuse: Protection, Prevention, Intervention, and Deterrence."

For further information regarding this hearing, please contact the subcommittee staff on (202) 224-9243.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND
FORESTRY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 6, 2011, at 2:15 p.m. in S-115.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN
AFFAIRS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 6, 2011, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Continued Oversight of the Implementation of the Wall Street Reform Act."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 6, 2011, at 10:00 a.m., in room HVC-210 of the Capitol Visitor Center, to conduct a hearing entitled "Tax Reform and the Tax Treatment of Financial Products."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONTRACTING
OVERSIGHT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 6, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled, "Whistleblower Protections for Government Contractors."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT
AND THE COURTS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate,

on December 6, 2011, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Access to the Court: Televising the Supreme Court."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANTITRUST, COMPETITION
POLICY, AND CONSUMER RIGHTS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy, and Consumer Rights, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on December 6, 2011, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "The Express Scripts/Medco Merger: Cost Savings for Consumers or More Profits for the Middleman?"

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION,
PRODUCT SAFETY, AND INSURANCE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Insurance of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on December 6, 2011, at 10 a.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The Committee will hold a hearing entitled, "Contaminated Drywall: Examining the Current Health, Housing and Product Safety Issues Facing Homeowners."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 1540

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that H.R. 1540, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012, be printed as passed by the Senate on December 1, 2011.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUMENTHAL). Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2011

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, the Senate adjourn until 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, December 7, 2011; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the first hour equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first 30 minutes and the