

S. 1536

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1536, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand the availability of medical nutrition therapy services under the Medicare program.

S. 1596

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1596, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the National World War II Memorial in Washington, DC, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 1596, *supra*.

S. 1752

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1752, a bill to establish the National Center for Advancement of Aviation.

S. 2036

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2036, a bill to amend the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, to establish the Office of the Special Investigator for Competition Matters, and for other purposes.

S. 2960

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2960, a bill to encourage reduction of disposable plastic products in units of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

S. 2981

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2981, a bill to amend the National Housing Act to establish a mortgage insurance program for first responders, and for other purposes.

S. 3230

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3230, a bill to require the establishment of a working group to evaluate the food safety threat posed by beef imported from Brazil, and for other purposes.

S. 3293

At the request of Mr. CASEY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3293, a bill to expand access of veterans to mental health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 3360

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms.

STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3360, a bill to reauthorize title II of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

S. 3508

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3508, a bill to posthumously award a congressional gold medal to Constance Baker Motley.

S. 3541

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3541, a bill to improve health care and services for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3541, *supra*.

S. 3607

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 3607, a bill to award a Congressional gold medal, collectively, to the First Rhode Island Regiment, in recognition of their dedicated service during the Revolutionary War.

S. 3632

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3632, a bill to amend the program for local substance use disorder services.

S. 3650

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3650, a bill to require the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to establish and maintain a public directory of the individuals occupying Government policy and supporting positions, and for other purposes.

S. 3652

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 3652, a bill to counter the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine and Eastern European allies, to expedite security assistance to Ukraine to bolster Ukraine's defense capabilities, and to impose sanctions relating to the actions of the Russian Federation with respect to Ukraine, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 39

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 39, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8

of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services relating to "Vaccine and Mask Requirements To Mitigate the Spread of COVID-19 in Head Start Programs."

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. ERNST, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 3657. A bill to require the Director of National Intelligence to provide notification to Congress of abandoned United States military equipment used in terrorist attacks; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3657

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. NOTIFICATION OF ABANDONED UNITED STATES MILITARY EQUIPMENT USED IN TERRORIST ATTACKS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after any element of the intelligence community (as defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003)) determines that United States military equipment abandoned or otherwise left unsecured in Afghanistan, Iraq, or Syria has been used in a terrorist attack against the United States, allies or partners of the United States, or local populations, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a written notification of such determination that includes any known details relating to—

- (1) the equipment used in the attack;
- (2) the date on which, and the location from which, the equipment left United States custody;
- (3) attribution for the orchestrators of the attack; and
- (4) the total number of deaths and casualties caused by the attack.

(b) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term "appropriate committees of Congress" means—

- (1) the Committee on Armed Services, the Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and
- (2) the Committee on Armed Services, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 3659. A bill to exempt premium pay received by semi-retired workers during the COVID-19 pandemic from the Social Security retirement earnings test; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Supporting Essential Workers in Retirement Act with my

colleagues Senator BROWN, Senator CASSIDY, and Senator CASEY. Our bill would ensure that workers who stepped up during the COVID-19 pandemic and performed essential work in hazardous conditions, including our first responders and critical supply chain workers, do not have their Social Security benefits reduced for serving our country.

Semiretired workers make invaluable contributions across all sectors of our economy. Workers who retire at age 62 may collect Social Security benefits, but if these workers choose to continue working and earning income, then the retirement earnings test, or RET, will reduce the benefits they earn above a certain threshold.

I have heard from many constituents who stepped up to perform essential work during the pandemic, only to find later that the income they earned during that time unexpectedly put them above the statutory RET threshold. One of my constituents, a teacher aide at an Aroostook County elementary school, is an example of a semiretired worker who was negatively impacted by the RET. She worked extra hours delivering meals to children who were at home learning remotely from March through June of 2020, and as a result she earned more than the RET threshold and had to pay money back to the Social Security Administration. I have also heard from semiretired nurses who agreed to work extra hours as our hospitals were filled with COVID patients and part-time employees who worked overtime to produce desperately needed personal protective equipment and COVID tests. They answered the call to fulfill vital roles when many of us were locked down in the early stages of the pandemic.

Through no fault of their own, these workers' incomes surpassed the RET threshold due to overtime and hazard pay. They must now pay back thousands of dollars in benefits to the Social Security Administration or face a temporary reduction in their benefits until the money is recouped. Meanwhile, the money they earned during this time was to compensate for the exceptional work performed during the pandemic, and these semiretired essential workers did not plan or budget for a reduction in benefits or a sudden expense. Mr. President, this is profoundly unfair for those who aided us during a crisis.

The Supporting Essential Workers in Retirement Act would exempt premium pay earned by essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic from the RET. We should incentivize essential work, not discourage it. I encourage my colleagues to join us in supporting this bill to ensure that those brave individuals who performed essential work in hazardous conditions to help our country address a global pandemic are not punished for doing so.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. KING):

S. 3665. A bill to authorize certain aliens seeking asylum to be employed

in the United States while their applications are being adjudicated; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Asylum Seeker Work Authorization Act of 2022 with my colleagues Senator SINEMA and Senator KING. This legislation would allow individuals seeking asylum to be eligible for employment authorizations starting 30 days after applying for asylum, provided their applications are not frivolous; they are not detained; and their identities have been verified, with their names run through the federal—government's terrorist watch lists. This change would allow asylum applicants to work, support themselves, and contribute to society without being as dependent on assistance from local governments while their claims are being adjudicated.

Under current law, asylum seekers must wait extended periods of time after filing their applications before they are allowed to apply for work permits. These long waiting periods were originally adopted by the Clinton administration—and then extended to a full year by the Trump administration—out of concern that some migrants might apply for asylum primarily as a means of getting a work authorization. Clearly, this change has only transferred the burden of care for these asylum seekers onto communities across the Nation.

One such community is Portland, ME. Over the span of several months, a historic surge of asylum seekers has arrived in Portland after crossing our southern border. Currently, hundreds of asylum seekers are being housed in emergency shelters by the city of Portland. These asylum seekers could give a much needed boost to Maine businesses that are facing labor shortages—our State's unemployment rate is just 4.7 percent—but the lengthy work authorization process prevents these asylum seekers from getting jobs, even to support themselves.

While the Federal Government has provided assistance to Portland and other communities around our country dealing with a surge in asylum seekers, it would be a better solution if those seeking asylum were able to join the workforce and achieve self-sufficiency as quickly as possible while awaiting the outcome of their cases.

It is my hope that the changes proposed by our bill will lessen the burden on the budgets of communities hosting asylum seekers, while allowing these individuals and their families to support themselves as they want to do, bringing needed skills to the cities and towns in which they settle. I encourage my colleagues to support it.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4927. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6617, making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending Sep-

tember 30, 2022, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4928. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6617, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4929. Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. MARSHALL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6617, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4930. Mr. BRAUN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6617, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4927. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6617, making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ PROHIBITION ON FEDERAL FUNDING OF SCHOOLS OR CHILD CARE CENTERS WITH STUDENT COVID-19 VACCINE MANDATES.

None of the funds made available under this Act or an amendment made by this Act may be provided or awarded, including by way of grant or subgrant, to any State educational agency, local educational agency, public school (including a public charter school), private or parochial school, child care center, or Head Start facility, that enforces any coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 vaccine mandate that requires a child or student under the age of 19 years to be immunized against COVID-19 as a condition of enrollment or in-person attendance at such school, center, or facility or to participate in any school-based or school-sponsored activities, including extracurricular activities.

SA 4928. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6617, making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ PROHIBITION ON FUNDING OF VACCINE MANDATES.

None of the funds made available under this Act or an amendment made by this Act may be used to implement or enforce any of the following COVID-19 vaccination mandates:

(1) The emergency temporary standard issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration on November 5, 2021, entitled "COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing; Emergency Temporary Standard" (86 Fed. Reg. 61402; relating to requiring COVID-19 vaccination with respect to employers of 100 or more employees).

(2) Executive Order 14042 of September 9, 2021 (86 Fed. Reg. 50985; relating to ensuring adequate COVID-19 safety protocols for Federal contractors), as amended before, on, or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) Executive Order 14043 of September 9, 2021 (86 Fed. Reg. 50989; relating to requiring COVID-19 vaccination for Federal employees), as amended before, on, or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(4) The interim final rule issued by the Department of Health and Human Services on November 5, 2021, entitled "Medicare and