

or operation of a political committee, to nonprofit corporations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. VANCE):

S. 3600. A bill to enable an employer or employees to establish an employee involvement organization to represent the interests of employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 3601. A bill to amend the Financial Stability Act of 2010 to require the Financial Stability Oversight Council to consider alternative approaches before determining that a U.S. nonbank financial company shall be supervised by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. TUBERVILLE, and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 3602. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to penalize false communications to cause an emergency response, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HAGERTY (for himself and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 3603. A bill to establish an information-sharing pilot program to combat the illicit use of crypto assets; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. VANCE, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. LEE):

S. 3604. A bill to amend title 1, United States Code, to clarify that certain tax exemptions are not treated as Federal financial assistance; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. SCHATZ, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 3605. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to develop guidelines and best practices for local evacuation route planning, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 3606. A bill to reauthorize the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. THUNE, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 3607. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that amounts paid for an abortion are not taken into account for purposes of the deduction for medical expenses; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 3608. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit treatment of certain distributions and reimbursements for certain abortions as qualified medical expenses; to the Committee on Finance.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. SMITH (for herself and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. Res. 525. A resolution expressing support for the designation of October 2023 as "Na-

tional Co-Op Month" and commending the cooperative business model and the member-owners, businesses, employees, farmers, ranchers, and practitioners who use the cooperative business model to positively impact the economy and society; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. Res. 526. A resolution repealing standing orders relating to flowers in the Senate Chamber; considered and agreed to.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 81

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 81, a bill to provide a moratorium on all Federal research grants provided to any institution of higher education or other research institute that is conducting gain-of-function research.

S. 260

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 260, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit nurse practitioners and physician assistants to satisfy the documentation requirement under the Medicare program for coverage of certain shoes for individuals with diabetes.

S. 359

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 359, a bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for a code of conduct for justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 786

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 786, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain amounts paid for physical activity, fitness, and exercise as amounts paid for medical care.

S. 815

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 815, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the female telephone operators of the Army Signal Corps, known as the "Hello Girls".

S. 956

At the request of Mr. KELLY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 956, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve dependent coverage under the TRICARE Young Adult Program.

S. 1007

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1007, a bill to establish in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor of the Department of State a Special Envoy for

the Human Rights of LGBTQI+ Peoples, and for other purposes.

S. 1300

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 1300, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of the late Prime Minister Golda Meir and the 75th anniversary of the United States-Israel relationship.

S. 1705

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1705, a bill to amend the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant program to promote career awareness in accounting as part of a well-rounded STEM educational experience.

S. 1863

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1863, a bill to require the Secretary of Energy to conduct a study and submit a report on the greenhouse gas emissions intensity of certain products produced in the United States and in certain foreign countries, and for other purposes.

S. 1950

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1950, a bill to extend the temporary order for fentanyl-related substances.

S. 1957

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1957, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to allow schools that participate in the school lunch program to serve whole milk, and for other purposes.

S. 2337

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2337, a bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to promulgate certain limitations with respect to pre-production plastic pellet pollution, and for other purposes.

S. 2389

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2389, a bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct certain offshore lease sales under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act.

S. 2781

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the names of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2781, a bill to promote remediation of abandoned

hardrock mines, and for other purposes.

S. 2839

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2839, a bill to clarify the maximum hiring target for new air traffic controllers, and for other purposes.

S. 2888

At the request of Mr. KING, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2888, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize representatives of veterans service organizations to participate in presentations to promote certain benefits available to veterans during prepreparation counseling under the Transition Assistance Program of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

S. 2974

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) were added as cosponsors of S. 2974, a bill to require public institutions of higher education to disseminate information on the rights of, and accommodations and resources for, pregnant students, and for other purposes.

S. 3080

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3080, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize state of good repair grants to be used for public transportation resilience improvement, and for other purposes.

S. 3109

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 3109, a bill to require the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the Commissioner of Social Security to review and simplify the processes, procedures, forms, and communications for family caregivers to assist individuals in establishing eligibility for, enrolling in, and maintaining and utilizing coverage and benefits under the Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, and Social Security programs respectively, and for other purposes.

S. 3176

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3176, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose an excise tax on excessively disparate wages paid to chief executive officers.

S. 3194

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cospon-

sor of S. 3194, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to achieve parity between the cost-of-living adjustment with respect to an annuity under the Federal Employees Retirement System and an annuity under the Civil Service Retirement System, and for other purposes.

S. 3276

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3276, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to allow certain alien veterans to be paroled into the United States to receive health care furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

S. 3280

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3280, a bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a veterans visa program to permit veterans who have been removed from the United States to return as immigrants, and for other purposes.

S. 3286

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3286, a bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to amend the rules of the Commission relating to disclosures by advisors of private funds, and for other purposes.

S. 3358

At the request of Mr. MULLIN, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3358, a bill to authorize livestock producers and their employees to take black vultures to prevent death, injury, or destruction to livestock, and for other purposes.

S. 3459

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3459, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an above-the-line deduction for attorney fees and costs in connection with consumer claim awards.

S. 3490

At the request of Mr. TUBERVILLE, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3490, a bill to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from providing health care to, or engaging in claims processing for health care for, any individual unlawfully present in the United States who is not eligible for health care under the laws administered by the Secretary.

S. 3496

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3496, a bill to amend the Energy Policy

Act of 2005 to address measuring methane emissions, and for other purposes.

S. 3520

At the request of Mr. LEE, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 3520, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives for education.

S. 3536

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3536, a bill to amend the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to require notification with respect to individualized education program teams, and for other purposes.

S. 3568

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 3568, a bill to amend chapter 3081 of title 54, United States Code, to enhance the protection and preservation of America's battlefields.

S. 3576

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3576, a bill to authorize certain States to take certain actions on certain Federal land to secure an international border of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 3587

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3587, a bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to immediately initiate removal proceedings for aliens whose visas are revoked on security or related grounds.

S.J. RES. 45

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 45, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

S.J. RES. 49

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 49, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to a "Standard for Determining Joint Employer Status".

S.J. RES. 53

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 53, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to the Kingdom of

Saudi Arabia of certain defense articles and services.

S. CON. RES. 16

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 16, a concurrent resolution urging all countries to outlaw the dog and cat meat trade and to enforce existing laws against such trade.

S. CON. RES. 23

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 23, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that a carbon tax would be detrimental to the economy of the United States.

S. RES. 333

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 333, a resolution designating 2024 as the Year of Democracy as a time to reflect on the contributions of the system of Government of the United States to a more free and stable world.

S. RES. 494

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 494, a resolution expressing the need for the Federal Government to establish a national biodiversity strategy for protecting biodiversity for current and future generations.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 3597. A bill to reauthorize programs relating to oral health promotion and disease prevention; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, last week, we received remarkable news about a milestone in America's healthcare: A record 20 million Americans are now covered by health insurance under the Affordable Care Act.

This is a sign of progress as we improve the quality of life and healthcare protections under President Biden.

Having quality, affordable healthcare coverage means having peace of mind if you get a diagnosis, an accident, or if you need access to care and are facing medical debt.

I know this story. I have been there. I was a law student at Georgetown when my wife and I were blessed with the birth of our first child, a baby girl born with a serious medical condition. As a young father without insurance, I can tell you, there is no greater feeling of helplessness.

That is why Democrats have been committed to expanding health insurance to millions more Americans and ensuring it contains protections for patients with preexisting conditions.

But even with these successes, there are serious gaps in America's

healthcare system, gaps which are unimaginable until you learn specifically what I mean.

I want to focus on one of them: access to dental care.

I spent the August recess last year visiting small towns in Southern Illinois. I met with the new mayor of Carbondale, IL, Carolin Harvey.

I asked her: OK. You have a U.S. Senator in your office, Mayor. What is your ask? What do you want?

Her answer: pediatric dentistry, of all things. I couldn't imagine that. I thought it would be a sewer line or a street or something for law enforcement—pediatric dentistry. She said: Senator, we just don't have enough dentists for kids in Southern Illinois. In fact, there are 10 rural counties in the State that have only 1 dentist to serve their community. In Lawrence County, there is 1 dentist for 15,000 people. That ratio—a local ratio—is 11 times worse than the national average.

What is the result of a shortage of dentists, particularly for kids? Patients' conditions worsen as they face delays to getting an examination.

My office was recently contacted about a child in Southern Illinois who was found to have tooth decay in her 18-month checkup. The patient is covered by Medicaid, and her parents had a hard time finding a dentist who would even see her.

Imagine this for a minute as I tell you this story, that you are a father or mother of a child who is 18 months old and has tooth decay and pain. After nearly a year, the patient was finally treated for severe tooth decay, erosion of the upper incisor teeth, and a large tooth abscess, but her condition did not improve after multiple rounds of antibiotics so her dentist called around to find a specialist to see her.

They were told by the specialist that "unfortunately, we have over 200 patients on our [waiting] list, so we really cannot help [her]." This child is going to have to develop a much worse condition known as facial cellulitis, then she can be sent to an emergency room and then "we can see her."

Listen to what I just said. You have a child who is a year and a half old, who has already been treated by a dentist, who has complications, who is trying to find her way back to the dentist and is being told: Sorry. There is a waiting list here of 200 people. Get to the end of the line, and wait.

Perhaps, though, there is a way out. If this child's condition worsens or is complicated, then maybe we can qualify under a new code under Medicaid to finally see her and treat her. In other words, this toddler had to develop deep-tissue infection—putting her at risk of sepsis, jaw damage, and other life-threatening illnesses—to get her decayed teeth pulled.

Imagine that as a parent, would you. Think about that for a minute.

Her dentist called a specialist in a neighboring State. Thankfully, they were able to perform emergency sur-

gery to remove the decayed teeth but not before risking life-threatening illnesses.

That is the reality for people in the United States of America and in the State of Illinois today. That is unacceptable. In fact, it is embarrassing. So what are we going to do about it in Washington, with all our money and all our power?

Thankfully, there is a Federal program that can help. It is called the National Health Service Corps. It provides a scholarship and loan repayment to dental, medical, and mental health providers who work in rural and urban areas in need. It is the primary Federal program intended to build a pipeline of healthcare providers and address shortages such as the one I just described to you. Nationwide, there are 20,000 professionals serving in the National Health Service Corps, treating 21 million patients.

But \$310 million in mandatory funding for this program will expire at the end of this month. We cannot allow this to happen. Senator MARCO RUBIO—a Republican from Florida—and I have a bipartisan measure to extend this program and nearly triple its funding. It is supported by more than 65 leading medical organizations. They know the reality on the ground for poor people in America, particularly in rural areas and urban areas in need.

The Senate HELP Committee passed a major bipartisan package last fall that included significant new funding for this program. I urge my Republican colleagues to join and support it.

But there is a lot more we need to do. For example, in Illinois, only one-quarter of practicing dentists accepts Medicaid. Think about that. Only one-quarter of practicing dentists accepts Medicaid. Since so few dentists take Medicaid patients, it means that kids in Illinois, with private insurance, are six times more likely to get a dental appointment than those who have Medicaid. In other words, if you are poor, that child complaining of a toothache is just going to have to take it. That, unfortunately, in my State and in many States, is reality.

Low reimbursement rates and arbitrary practices by companies that administer dental benefits under Medicaid contribute to this. So I recently sent a letter to the three major insurance providers—DentaQuest, Avesis, and Envolve—to understand their tactics and their corporate strategies and ensure they are not putting unnecessary barriers up for basic dental treatment.

I am also working with stakeholders to bring in Federal dollars to expand dental residency training programs, fund mobile clinics that drive into rural areas, and expand surgical capacity.

I might just say this as an aside. I am often asked the question: Why in the world do we treat dentistry as anything other than a medical specialty? It certainly is. If you have got a sore