

Today, I and my colleagues, Senators KEMPTHORNE and CRAIG, are introducing legislation that will help ensure that Federal firefighters continue to have access to airtanker services. The Wildfire Suppression Aircraft Transfer Act of 1996 will help facilitate the sale of former military aircraft to contractors who provide firefighting services to the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior. The existing fleet of available airtankers is aging rapidly and fleet modernization is critical to the continued success of the firefighting program.

Currently, legislative authority does not exist for the transfer or sale of excess turbine-powered military aircraft, suitable for conversion to airtankers, to private operators. This greatly hampers efforts to modernize the airtanker fleet. This bill will require that the aircraft be used only for firefighting activities.

Time is very short, but it is critical that this bill become law in this Congress. If we fail to pass this law, airtanker operators will not have access to the planes they need to update the aging airtanker fleet.

I urge my colleagues to support our efforts to ensure that Federal firefighters have the resources they need to protect the public and their property from the threat of wildfires.●

By Mr. MOYNIHAN:

S. 2079. A bill to repeal the prohibition against State restrictions on communications between government agencies and the INS; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ALIEN INFORMATION PROVISION REPEAL
LEGISLATION

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, on Wednesday, September 11, Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani of New York City delivered an address at Georgetown University Law School about an obscure provision in the recently passed welfare legislation. The provision, section 434 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, states:

Notwithstanding any other provision of Federal, State, or local law, no State or local government entity may be prohibited, or in any way restricted, from sending to or receiving from the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) information regarding the immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of an alien in the United States.

Mayor Giuliani said it would "create chaos in New York City." I agree with him that this provision is ill-advised and threatens the public health and safety of residents of New York City. It conflicts with a 1985 executive order issued by then-Mayor Edward I. Koch prohibiting city employees from reporting suspected illegal aliens to the INS unless the alien was charged with a crime. That executive order, which is similar to local laws in other States and cities, was intended to ensure that fear of deportation does not deter illegal aliens from seeking emergency medical attention, reporting crimes, and so on.

An earlier version of this provision was first introduced in welfare legislation during the 103d Congress as a part of H.R. 3500, the Responsibility and Empowerment Support Program Providing Employment, Child Care, and Training Act, sponsored by Representatives Michel, GINGRICH, and SANTORUM. On September 8, 1995, during Senate consideration of H.R. 4, the Work Opportunity Act of 1995, Senator SANTORUM, along with Senator NICKLES, offered a similar amendment. The amendment was adopted by the Senate by a vote of 91 to 6, but H.R. 4 was later vetoed by President Clinton.

This year, the provision was included in S. 1795, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, which was signed by President Clinton on August 22, 1996.

Because this provision poses a threat to health and safety in New York City and elsewhere, I am today introducing legislation to repeal section 434 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996. I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 2079

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

SECTION 1. REPEAL OF THE PROHIBITION AGAINST STATE RESTRICTIONS ON COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND THE INS.

Section 434 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-193) is repealed.●

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 157

At the request of Mr. BUMPERS, the name of the Senator from Oregon [Mr. WYDEN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 157, a bill to reduce Federal spending by prohibiting the expenditure of appropriated funds on the United States International Space Station Program.

S. 1095

At the request of Mr. MOYNIHAN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. FAIRCLOTH] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1095, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend permanently the exclusion for educational assistance provided by employers to employees.

S. 1379

At the request of Mr. SIMPSON, the names of the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. FAIRCLOTH] and the Senator from Minnesota [Mr. GRAMS] were added as cosponsors of S. 1379, a bill to make technical amendments to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1735

At the request of Mr. PRESSLER, the name of the Senator from California [Mrs. BOXER] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1735, a bill to establish the United States Tourism Organization as a non-

governmental entity for the purpose of promoting tourism in the United States.

S. 1870

At the request of Mr. MOYNIHAN, the name of the Senator from Oregon [Mr. HATFIELD] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1870, a bill to establish a medical education trust fund, and for other purposes.

S. 1963

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the names of the Senator from New York [Mr. D'AMATO] and the Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. INHOFE] were added as cosponsors of S. 1963, a bill to establish a demonstration project to study and provide coverage of routine patient care costs for medicare beneficiaries with cancer who are enrolled in an approved clinical trial program.

S. 1965

At the request of Mr. KERREY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1965, a bill to prevent the illegal manufacturing and use of methamphetamine.

S. 2064

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Arkansas [Mr. PRYOR] was added as a cosponsor of S. 2064, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to extend the program of research on breast cancer.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 52

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from Texas [Mr. GRAMM] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Joint Resolution 52, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to protect the rights of victims of crimes.

SENATE RESOLUTION 292

At the request of Mr. PRESSLER, the names of the Senator from Ohio [Mr. DEWINE], the Senator from Rhode Island [Mr. CHAFEE], the Senator from Pennsylvania [Mr. SPECTER], the Senator from Alaska [Mr. STEVENS], the Senator from South Carolina [Mr. THURMOND], the Senator from Tennessee [Mr. FRIST], the Senator from Virginia [Mr. WARNER], and the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. LOTT] were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 292, a resolution designating the second Sunday in October of 1996 as "National Children's Day," and for other purposes.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

GRAMS AMENDMENT NO. 5350

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. GRAMS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill (H.R. 3662) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes; as follows: