

Mr. DAYTON, Mr. DODD, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mrs. BOXER):

S.J. Res. 11. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to equal rights for women and men; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. DEWINE:

S. Res. 92. A resolution designating September 17, 2003 as "Constitution Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DASCHLE (for himself and Mr. FRIST):

S. Res. 93. A resolution commending Jeri Thomson for her service to the United States Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DASCHLE (for himself and Mr. FRIST):

S. Res. 94. A resolution commending Alfonso C. Lenhardt for his service to the United States Senate; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 13

At the request of Mr. KYL, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. MILLER) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) were added as cosponsors of S. 13, a bill to provide financial security to family farm and small business owners while by ending the unfair practice of taxing someone at death.

S. 158

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 158, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the depreciation benefits available to small businesses, and for other purposes.

S. 159

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 159, a bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to allocate additional spectrum for unlicensed use by wireless broadband devices, and for other purposes.

S. 196

At the request of Mr. ALLEN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 196, a bill to establish a digital and wireless network technology program, and for other purposes.

S. 250

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 250, a bill to address the international HIV/AIDS pandemic.

S. 253

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from South Da-

kota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 253, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to exempt qualified current and former law enforcement officers from State laws prohibiting the carrying of concealed handguns.

S. 289

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 289, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve tax equity for military personnel, and for other purposes.

S. 321

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 321, a bill to provide for the establishment of a scientific basis for new firefighting technology standards, improve coordination among Federal, State, and local fire officials in training for and responding to terrorist attacks and other national emergencies, and for other purposes.

S. 338

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 338, a bill to protect the flying public's safety and security by requiring that the air traffic control system remain a Government function.

S. 377

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 377, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to the United States.

S. 447

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. MILLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 447, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require institutions of higher education to preserve the educational status and financial resources of military personnel called to active duty.

S. 470

At the request of Mr. SARBANES, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 470, a bill to extend the authority for the construction of a memorial to Martin Luther King, Jr.

S. 486

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) were added as cosponsors of S. 486, a bill to provide for equal coverage of mental health benefits with

respect to health insurance coverage unless comparable limitations are imposed on medical and surgical benefits.

S. 504

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) were added as cosponsors of S. 504, a bill to establish academics for teachers and students of American history and civics and a national alliance of teachers of American history and civics, and for other purposes.

S. 516

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 516, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to allow the arming of pilots of cargo aircraft, and for other purposes.

S. 518

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE) were added as cosponsors of S. 518, a bill to increase the supply of pancreatic islet cells for research, to provide better coordination of Federal efforts and information on islet cell transplantation, and to collect the data necessary to move islet cell transplantation from an experimental procedure to a standard therapy.

S. 538

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 538, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a program to assist family caregivers in accessing affordable and high-quality respite care, and for other purposes.

S. 544

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 544, a bill to establish a SAFER Firefighter Grant Program.

S. 582

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 582, a bill to authorize the Department of Energy to develop and implement an accelerated research and development program for advanced clean coal technologies for use in coal-based electricity generating facilities and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide financial incentives to encourage the retrofitting, repowering, or replacement of coal-based electricity generating facilities to protect the environment and improve efficiency and encourage the early commercial application of advanced clean coal technologies, so as to allow coal to help meet the growing need of the United States for the generation of reliable and affordable electricity.

S. 598

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms.

SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 598, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a clarification of the definition of homebound for purposes of determining eligibility for home health services under the medicare program.

S. 603

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 603, a bill to amend part A of title IV of the Social Security Act to give States the option to create a program that allows individuals receiving temporary assistance to needy families to obtain post-secondary or longer duration vocational education.

S. 606

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 606, a bill to provide collective bargaining rights for public safety officers employed by States or their political subdivisions.

S. 606

At the request of Mr. DODD, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 606, *supra*.

S. 622

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 622, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide families of disabled children with the opportunity to purchase coverage under the medicaid program for such children, and for other purposes.

S. 634

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. CAMPBELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 634, a bill to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to carry out a study on the feasibility of designating the Trail of the Ancients as a national historic trail.

S.J. RES. 1

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 1, A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to protect the rights of crime victims.

S. CON. RES. 6

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 6, A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that a commemorative postage stamp should be issued in honor of Daniel "Chappie" James, the Nation's first African-American four-star general.

S. RES. 48

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 48, A resolution designating April

2003 as "Financial Literacy for Youth Month".

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 637. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the first \$2,000 of health insurance premiums to be fully deductible; to the Committee on Finance.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today, I am introducing the Health Insurance Tax Relief Act to help our Nation's working families deal with the recent dramatic increases in health care costs. The legislation would allow taxpayers to deduct up to \$2000 in out-of-pocket health insurance costs per year.

While this small Federal contribution to assist families with the health care costs they bear will not solve all of the problems in our health care system, it will provide immediate help for working families who have seen health care costs explode. In 2001, the last year for which we have data, the cost of health care for employer sponsored insurance rose 11 percent. To deal with this increase, 75 percent of large employers and 42 percent of small business employers said they were likely to increase employee premium costs.

In addition, according to the Center for Health System Change, employers will likely be raising deductibles and co-payments and perhaps using more coinsurance, where patients pay a percentage of the cost of their care rather than a fixed dollar amount. And, some businesses are dropping health insurance benefits entirely.

This is an issue of fairness. We already provide a tax break for small business owners who provide health insurance, and we also provide one for individuals who are self-employed. But currently there is no provision that allows for employees, who are faced with additional financial responsibility for their premium costs, to take a tax deduction on their out-of-pocket expenses. This legislation rectifies that unfairness and will help families meet rising health care costs.

The need for this legislation is particularly important for employees in small businesses, many of which sought to minimize premium increases by adding or increasing deductibles, co-payments and coinsurance. But this shifting of health insurance costs from employers to employees is not limited to small firms. The California Public Employees' Retirement System, CalPERS, the second-largest purchaser of health care after the Federal Government, approved a 25 percent increase in health insurance premiums for 2003. CalPERS provides retirement and health benefit services to more than 1.3 million members and nearly 2,500 employers. These are hard working Americans struggling to make ends meet in a weak economy.

That is why, we should provide some targeted assistance to help families

pay for health care. I urge my colleagues to support my legislation.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BAYH, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. KERRY):

S. 639. A bill to designate certain Federal land in the State of Utah as wilderness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce America's Red Rock Wilderness Act. This legislation is in keeping with our Nation's bipartisan commitment to preserve our natural heritage. The preservation of our Nation's vital natural resources will be one of our most important legacies.

Unfortunately, remaining wilderness areas are increasingly threatened and degraded by oil and gas development, mining, claims of rights of way, logging and off-road vehicles. America's Red Rock Wilderness Act will designate 9.1 million acres of land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, BLM, in Utah as wilderness under the Wilderness Act. Wilderness designation will preserve the land's wilderness character, along with the values associated with that wilderness—scenic beauty, solitude, wildlife, geological features, archaeological sites, and other features of scientific, educational, and historical value.

America's Red Rock Wilderness Act will provide wilderness protection for red rock cliffs offering spectacular vistas of rare rock formations, canyons and desert lands, important archaeological sites, and habitat for rare plant and animal species.

Volunteers took detailed inventories of thousands of square miles of BLM land in Utah to help determine which lands should be protected. These volunteers provided extensive documentation to ensure that these areas meet federal wilderness criteria.

The BLM also completed a re-inventory of approximately 6 million acres of Federal land in the same area. The results provide a convincing confirmation that the areas designated for protection under this bill meet Federal wilderness criteria.

For more than twenty years Utah conservationists have been working to add the last great blocks of undeveloped BLM-administered land in Utah to the National Wilderness Preservation System. The lands we propose to protect surround and connect eight of Utah's nine national park, monument and recreation areas. These proposed BLM wilderness areas easily equal their neighboring national parklands in scenic beauty, opportunities for recreation, and ecological importance. Yet, unlike the parks, most of these scenic treasures lack any form of long-term protection.

I'd like to thank all of my colleagues who are original cosponsors of this