

S. 731. A bill to recruit and retain more qualified individuals to teach in Tribal Colleges or Universities (Rept. No. 109-205).

S. 1003. A bill to amend the Act of December 22, 1974, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 109-206).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. NELSON of Florida:

S. 2080. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to prohibit physicians and other health care practitioners from charging a membership or other incidental fee (or requiring purchase of other items or services) as a prerequisite for the provision of an item or service to a medicare beneficiary; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COLEMAN (for himself, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. DEWINE, and Mrs. HUTCHISON):

S. 2081. A bill to improve the safety of all-terrain vehicles in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SUNUNU (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. SALAZAR):

S. 2082. A bill to amend the USA PATRIOT Act to extend the sunset of certain provisions of that Act and the lone wolf provision of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 to March 31, 2006; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. CLINTON (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 2083. A bill to prohibit the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) from removing any item from the current list of items prohibited from being carried aboard a passenger aircraft; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURNS, Mr. BURR, Mr. BYRD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DODD, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. MUR-

KOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SMITH, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. TALENT, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 330. A resolution relative to the death of Eugene Joseph McCarthy, former United States Senator for the State of Minnesota; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself and Mr. TALENT):

S. Con. Res. 68. A resolution designating May 20, 2006, as "Negro Leaguers Recognition Day."; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 211

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 211, a bill to facilitate nationwide availability of 2-1-1 telephone service for information and referral on human services, volunteer services, and for other purposes.

S. 333

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) were added as cosponsors of S. 333, a bill to hold the current regime in Iran accountable for its threatening behavior and to support a transition to democracy in Iran.

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 333, *supra*.

S. 382

At the request of Mr. REED, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 382, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to strengthen prohibitions against animal fighting, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 382, *supra*.

S. 438

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 438, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps.

S. 548

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 548, a bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to encourage owners and operators of privately-held farm, ranch, and forest land to voluntarily make their land available for access by the public under programs administered by States and tribal governments.

S. 633

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from New Hamp-

shire (Mr. GREGG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 633, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of veterans who became disabled for life while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

S. 738

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 738, a bill to provide relief for the cotton shirt industry.

S. 863

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 863, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centenary of the bestowal of the Nobel Peace Prize on President Theodore Roosevelt, and for other purposes.

S. 877

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 877, a bill to provide for a biennial budget process and a biennial appropriations process and to enhance oversight and the performance of the Federal Government.

S. 1086

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1086, a bill to improve the national program to register and monitor individuals who commit crimes against children or sex offenses.

S. 1112

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1112, a bill to make permanent the enhanced educational savings provisions for qualified tuition programs enacted as part of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001.

S. 1139

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 1139, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to strengthen the ability of the Secretary of Agriculture to regulate the pet industry.

S. 1196

At the request of Mr. CORZINE, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1196, a bill to provide for disclosure of fire safety standards and measures with respect to campus buildings, and for other purposes.

S. 1272

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 1272, a bill to amend title 46, United States Code, and title II of the Social

Security Act to provide benefits to certain individuals who served in the United States merchant marine (including the Army Transport Service and the Naval Transport Service) during World War II.

S. 1317

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1317, a bill to provide for the collection and maintenance of cord blood units for the treatment of patients and research, and to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Bone Marrow and Cord Blood Cell Transplantation Program to increase the number of transplants for recipients suitable matched to donors of bone marrow and cord blood.

S. 1353

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1353, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment of an Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Registry.

S. 1376

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1376, a bill to improve and expand geographic literacy among kindergarten through grade 12 students in the United States by improving professional development programs for kindergarten through grade 12 teachers offered through institutions of higher education.

S. 1441

At the request of Mr. THOMAS, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1441, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include wireless telecommunications equipment in the definition of qualified technological equipment for purposes of determining the depreciation treatment of such equipment.

S. 1448

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1448, a bill to improve the treatment provided to veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

S. 1462

At the request of Mr. BROWNBAC, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1462, a bill to promote peace and accountability in Sudan, and for other purposes.

S. 1488

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1488, a bill to withhold funding from the United Nations if the United Nations abridges the rights provided by the Second Amendment to the Constitution, and for other purposes.

S. 1504

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1504, a bill to establish a market driven telecommunications marketplace, to eliminate government managed competition of existing communication service, and to provide parity between functionally equivalent services.

S. 1562

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1562, a bill to provide for the merger of the bank and savings association deposit insurance funds, to modernize and improve the safety and fairness of the Federal deposit insurance system, and for other purposes.

S. 1687

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1687, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide waivers relating to grants for preventive health measures with respect to breast and cervical cancers.

S. 1698

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1698, a bill to accelerate efforts to develop vaccines for diseases primarily affecting developing countries and for other purposes.

S. 1779

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1779, a bill to amend the Humane Methods of Livestock Slaughter Act of 1958 to ensure the humane slaughter of nonambulatory livestock, and for other purposes.

S. 1881

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1881, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the Old Mint at San Francisco otherwise known as the "Granite Lady", and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1881, *supra*.

S. 1915

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1915, a bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to prohibit the shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, receiving, possessing, purchasing, selling, or donation of horses and other equines to be slaughtered for human consumption, and for other purposes.

S. 1930

At the request of Mr. REID, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as

cosponsors of S. 1930, a bill to expand the research, prevention, and awareness activities of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with respect to inflammatory bowel disease.

S. 1937

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1937, a bill to expand certain preferential trade treatment for Haiti.

S. 1975

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 1975, a bill to prohibit deceptive practices in Federal elections.

S. 1998

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1998, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to enhance protections relating to the reputation and meaning of the Medal of Honor and other military decorations and awards, and for other purposes.

S. 2010

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2010, a bill to amend the Social Security Act to enhance the Social Security of the Nation by ensuring adequate public-private infrastructure and to resolve to prevent, detect, treat, intervene in, and prosecute elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 65

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 65, a concurrent resolution recognizing the benefits and importance of Federally-qualified health centers and their Medicaid prospective payment system.

S. RES. 219

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 219, a resolution designating March 8, 2006, as "Endangered Species Day", and encouraging the people of the United States to become educated about, and aware of, threats to species, success stories in species recovery, and the opportunity to promote species conservation worldwide.

S. RES. 283

At the request of Mr. ALLEN, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 283, a resolution recognizing the contributions of Korean Americans to the United States

and encouraging the celebration of "Korean American Day".

S. RES. 320

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 320, a resolution calling the President to ensure that the foreign policy of the United States reflects appropriate understanding and sensitivity concerning issues related to human rights, ethnic cleansing, and genocide documented in the United States record relating to the Armenian Genocide.

AMENDMENT NO. 2579

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2579 proposed to S. 1042, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2599

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2599 intended to be proposed to S. 2020, an original bill to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 202(b) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. NELSON of Florida:

S. 2080. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to prohibit physicians and other health care practitioners from charging a membership or other incidental fee (or requiring purchase of other items or services) as a prerequisite for the provision of an item or service to a medicare beneficiary; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Equal Access to Medicare Act of 2005 to combat the growing practice of health care often called "concierge" medicine. As my colleagues may recall I introduced similar legislation in the past two sessions of Congress to deal with the growing problem of doctors shutting down their practices and opening new ones, only accepting those patients willing to pay a membership fee. These fees range from \$60 to \$15,000 annually. By charging these extraneous and unwarranted dues or requiring patients to purchase non-Medicare covered services, doctors can shrink their practices, maintain a high profit margin, and continue billing Medicare, all on the backs of low and middle-income beneficiaries.

This is a dangerous model that causes significant disparities in the

care available to Medicare beneficiaries. A doctor receiving Medicare reimbursement should not be allowed to turn away Medicare beneficiaries who cannot or choose not to pay membership fees or fees for other non-Medicare covered services. My bill simply prevents Medicare from providing payments to doctors who charge their patients membership fees or any other incidental or extraneous fees, or who require the purchase of non-Medicare covered services as a condition for the provision of Medicare covered services.

Since the introduction of this bill in 2001, the practice has been expanding with versions in many States. According to a recent GAO report, the number of physicians practicing concierge medicine has increased by more than 10 times in the past 5 years. As an increasing number of Medicare beneficiaries voice their concerns, it is time for Congress to act. Should this practice proliferate, a doctor shortage for low and middle-income Medicare beneficiaries is likely, exacerbating an already ailing health care marketplace.

I must emphasize that this bill does not interfere with the ability of doctors to limit the size of their practices or to be adequately compensated; it simply applies the same standard private insurance companies apply to their providers—that doctors may not select patients based upon willingness or ability to pay an entrance fee.

I hope my colleagues will join me in helping Medicare keep its promise of accessibility to seniors who have paid a lifetime of "premiums."

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. 2080

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Equal Access to Medicare Act of 2005".

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION OF INCIDENTAL FEES AND REQUIRED PURCHASE OF NONCOVERED ITEMS OR SERVICES UNDER MEDICARE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1842 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395u) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(u) PROHIBITION OF INCIDENTAL FEES OR REQUIRING PURCHASE OF NONCOVERED ITEMS OR SERVICES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—A physician, practitioner (as described in subsection (b)(18)(C)), or other individual may not—

"(A) charge a membership fee or any other incidental fee to a medicare beneficiary (as defined in section 1802(b)(5)(A)); or

"(B) require a medicare beneficiary (as so defined) to purchase a noncovered item or service as a prerequisite for the provision of a covered item or service to the beneficiary under this title.

"(2) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to apply the prohibition under paragraph (1) to a physician, practitioner, or other individual described in such subsection who does not accept any funds under this title."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to membership fees and other charges made, or purchases of items and services required, on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

By Mr. SUNUNU (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. ROCKFELLER, Ms. MUKOWSKI, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. SALAZAR):

S. 2082. A bill to amend the USA PATRIOT Act to extend the sunset of certain provisions of that Act and the lone wolf provision of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 to March 31, 2006; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, On a September morning 4 years ago nearly 3,000 lives were lost on American soil, and our lives as Americans changed in an instant. In the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, Congress moved swiftly to pass anti-terrorism legislation. The fires were still smoldering at Ground Zero in New York City when the USA PATRIOT Act became law on October 30, 2001, just 6 weeks after the attacks.

Many of us here in the Senate today worked together in a spirit of bipartisan unity and resolve to craft a bill that we had hoped would make us safer as a nation. Freedom and security are always in tension in our society, and especially so in those somber weeks after the attacks, and we tried our best to strike the right balance.

One of the fruits of that bipartisanism was the PATRIOT Act's sunset provisions. These key provisions set an expiration date of December 31, 2005, on certain government powers that had great potential to affect the civil liberties of the American people. Republican House Majority Leader Dick Arney and I insisted on these sunsets to ensure that Congress would revisit the PATRIOT Act within a few years and consider refinements to protect the rights and liberties of all Americans more effectively, and we prevailed.

Sadly, the Bush administration and the Republican congressional leadership have squandered key opportunities to improve the PATRIOT Act. The House-Senate conference report filed last week by Republican lawmakers falls short of what the American people expect and deserve from us. The bipartisan Senate bill, which the Senate Judiciary Committee and then the Senate adopted unanimously, struck a far better balance.

The reauthorization of the PATRIOT Act must have the confidence of the American people. The Congress should not rush ahead to enact flawed legislation to meet a deadline that is within our power to extend. We owe it to the American people to get this right.

The way forward to a sensible and workable bipartisan bill is clear. Today I am pleased to join with Senator SUNUNU and others to introduce a bill to extend the sunsets on the expiring PATRIOT Act powers until March 31, 2006. Our bill also extends for three