

By Mr. GRASSLEY, from the Committee on Finance:

Report to accompany S. 3525, a bill to amend subpart 2 of part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to improve outcomes for children in families affected by methamphetamine abuse and addiction, to reauthorize the promoting safe and stable families program, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 109-269).

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. DORGAN (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. DEWINE, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 3561. A bill to amend the Mandatory Victims' Restitution Act to improve restitution for victims of crime, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mr. SALAZAR):

S. 3562. A bill to allocate a portion of the revenue derived from lease sales in the 181 Area to the land and water conservation fund for use by State and local governments for conservation purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BURNS (for himself and Mr. BAUCUS):

S. 3563. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct studies to determine the feasibility and environmental impact of rehabilitating the St. Mary Diversion and Conveyance Works and the Milk River Project, to authorize the rehabilitation and improvement of the St. Mary Diversion and Conveyance Works, to develop an emergency response plan for use in the case of catastrophic failure of the St. Mary Diversion and Conveyance Works, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SANTORUM (for himself, Mr. TALENT, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 3564. A bill to provide for comprehensive border security and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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 and Mr. REID):

S. Res. 520. A resolution to authorize the production of records, testimony, and legal representation; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 707

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 707, a bill to reduce preterm labor and delivery and the risk of pregnancy-related deaths and complications due to pregnancy, and to reduce infant mortality caused by prematurity.

S. 1035

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1035, a bill to authorize the pres-

entation of commemorative medals on behalf of Congress to Native Americans who served as Code Talkers during foreign conflicts in which the United States was involved during the 20th century in recognition of the service of those Native Americans to the United States.

S. 1353

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) 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. 1687

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) 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. 3548

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3548, a bill to authorize appropriate action if negotiations with Japan to allow the resumption of United States beef exports are not successful, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 89

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 89, a concurrent resolution honoring the 100th anniversary of the historic congressional charter of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DORGAN (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. DEWINE, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 3561. A bill to amend the Mandatory Victims' Restitution Act to improve restitution for victims of crime, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, today I am joined by Senators GRASSLEY, DURBIN, DEWINE and COLLINS in introducing legislation called the Restitution for Victims of Crime Act of 2006. This legislation will give Justice Department officials the tools they say are needed to help them do a better job of collecting court-ordered restitution and other federal criminal debt.

Over the past several years, the Government Accountability Office conducted at my request and the request of others a study of the amount of federal criminal debt owed victims and the reasons why much of it is still uncollected. The GAO's findings revealed what many victims already know, that the current system for collecting restitution and other federal criminal debt is failing those it is intended to help.

Let me describe what criminal debt is. You go to court. Someone is convicted of a crime, and a fine is levied. The question is, Is that fine being paid? Or you go to court and the judge assigns guilt to a defendant and says: You must make restitution. So that becomes a debt.

The problem is that the amount of uncollected restitution and other federal criminal debt has spiraled upward while the percentage of that debt ultimately recovered for crime victims has plummeted. The amount of uncollected federal criminal debt skyrocketed from \$6 billion in 1996 to over \$41 billion by the end of fiscal year 2005. That's a nearly sevenfold increase in uncollected criminal debt owed to the victims of federal crimes. Some \$15 million in criminal debt ordered by federal courts in North Dakota remained uncollected at the end of 2005, according to information from the Justice Department.

The percentage of debt that is collected or recovered for crime victims in the form of restitution has fallen to embarrassingly low levels. According to the GAO, Federal criminal justice officials collected an average of just 4 cents on every dollar that has been ordered in restitution and other criminal debt. This is restitution ordered by the courts to be paid to crime victims from those who perpetrated the crime.

The victims of crime deserve better. At the very least, crime victims should not be concerned that their prospects for financial restitution are being diminished because criminal offenders are frittering away their ill-gotten gains on lavish lifestyles and the like.

There is plenty of blame to go around for our failure to aggressively tackle this criminal debt problem. Some of the Nation's top law enforcement officials did not pursue a number of major recommendations made by the GAO in 2001 and again in 2004 and 2005 to boost our embarrassingly low criminal debt collection rate. These officials only started to take this matter seriously after I added language to an omnibus spending bill that required the Attorney General to establish a joint federal task force to develop a strategic plan for improving federal criminal debt collection. Second, Congress has not yet held extensive hearings about the federal government's recent track record on criminal debt collection and the related GAO reports.

I understand that criminal debt collection can be a tough job. It may be impossible to collect the full amount of restitution owed to victims in some cases. Clearly criminal debt collections may be more difficult in cases where convicted criminals are in prison, ill-gotten gains are already gone or these criminals are without any other financial means to pay their full restitution. However, GAO's work also made clear that more financial assets could be recovered.

Let me tell you why I and my colleagues have introduced this legislation. I had the GAO review a number of