

### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following measures were discharged from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and ordered placed on the calendar:

S. 194. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1300 North Frontage Road West in Vail, Colorado, as the "Gerald R. Ford, Jr. Post Office Building".

S. 219. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 152 North 5th Street in Laramie, Wyoming, as the "Gale W. McGee Post Office".

S. 412. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2633 11th Street in Rock Island, Illinois, as the "Lane Evans Post Office Building".

### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 976. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief for small businesses, and for other purposes.

### 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. BIDEN (for himself and Mr. LUGAR):

S. 676. A bill to provide that the Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank or the Alternate Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank may serve on the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. SALAZAR, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 677. A bill to improve the grant program for secure schools under the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 678. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to ensure air passengers have access to necessary services while on a grounded air carrier and are not unnecessarily held on a grounded air carrier before or after a flight, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 679. A bill to provide a comprehensive strategy for stabilizing Iraq and redeploying United States troops from Iraq within one year; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. CARPER, and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. 680. A bill to ensure proper oversight and accountability in Federal contracting, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Mr. COLEMAN, and Mr. OBAMA):

S. 681. A bill to restrict the use of offshore tax havens and abusive tax shelters to inappropriately avoid Federal taxation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. REID, Mr. WARNER,

Mr. KERRY, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. GREGG, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. ENZI, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BIDEN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HARKIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. REED, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. TESTER, Mr. WEBB, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BAYH, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 682. A bill to award a congressional gold medal to Edward William Brooke III in recognition of his unprecedented and enduring service to our Nation; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S.J. Res. 3. A joint resolution to specify an expiration date for the authorization of use of military force under the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 and to authorize the continuing presence of United States forces in Iraq after that date for certain military operations and activities; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 614

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 614, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to double the child tax credit for the first year, to expand the credit dependent care services, to provide relief from the alternative minimum tax, and for other purposes.

S. 641

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 641, a bill to express the sense of Congress that no funds should be cut off or reduced for American troops in the field which would result in undermining their safety or their ability to complete their assigned missions.

### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 678. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to ensure air passengers have access to necessary services while on a grounded air carrier and are not unnecessarily held on a grounded air carrier before or after a flight, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today with my colleague Senator OLYMPIA SNOWE to introduce "The Airline Passenger Bill of Rights Act of 2007," a bill which addresses an issue recently in the news—airlines trapping passengers on the ground in delayed planes for hours and hours without adequate food, water or bathrooms.

This week, at John F. Kennedy International Airport, a JetBlue airplane sat on the tarmac for 11 hours. Over this New Year's Eve weekend, American Airlines had to divert planes to Austin because of the bad weather and one plane sat on the tarmac for nine hours.

For the passengers, the conditions were not good. There was not enough food and potable water, and the bathrooms stopped working. According to news reports, after waiting for five hours an elderly woman asked for food and was told she could purchase a snack box for \$4.

This is unacceptable.

I have been stuck on the tarmac many times in my travel back and forth to California. Weather delays are unavoidable, but airlines must have a plan to ensure that their passengers—which often include infants and the elderly—are not trapped on a plane for hours and hours. If a plane is stuck on the tarmac or at the gate for hours, a passenger should have the right to deplane. No one should be held hostage on an aircraft when an airline can clearly find a way to get passengers off safely.

This is not the first time that passengers have been trapped on an airplane an extreme amount of time. In 1999, after a Northwest plane was delayed on the tarmac for at least nine hours with the same poor conditions, many Members of Congress were outraged and several introduced comprehensive passenger bill of rights legislation.

While those bills did not become law, they had a powerful effect on the airlines, which agreed to a 12-point "Airline Customer Service Plan." In the plan, the airlines committed to providing passengers with better information about ticket prices and delays, better efforts to retrieve lost luggage, fairer "bumping" policies and to meeting essential needs during long on-aircraft delays. And since 1999 the airlines have made improvements to passenger service.

But in recent years, as the industry has grown ever more competitive, airlines are increasingly operating with no margin of error. Planes are completely sold out, gates are continuously utilized, airport facilities are stretched thin. This means that when bad weather hits, the airlines can find themselves unable to readily accommodate delays and cancellations. And the results, as we have seen this winter, can be disastrous.

And that is why today we are introducing the "Airline Passenger Bill of Rights Act of 2007," commonsense legislation designed to ensure that travelers can no longer be unnecessarily trapped on airplanes for excessive periods of time or deprived of food, water or adequate restrooms during a ground delay.

The legislation requires airlines to offer passengers the option of safely leaving a plane they have boarded once