By Mr. CRAPSEY (for himself and Mr. RISCH): S. 2802. A bill to settle land claims within the Fort Hall Reservation; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. CASEY: S. 2803. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to encourage research and other educational campaigns with respect to pulmonary hypertension, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY): S. 2804. A bill to require employers to certify that they have not and will not lay off a large number of employees before they are allowed to employ foreign workers in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SPECTER: S. 2805. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to increase the amount made available to purchase commodities for the emergency food assistance program in fiscal year 2010; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. ENNIS (for himself and Mr. CARPER): S. 2806. A bill to codify and enhance existing regulations designed to encourage individuals to adopt healthy behaviors through voluntary participation in programs of health promotion and disease prevention; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. COOKER, and Mr. NELSON of Florida): S. Res. 355. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has systematically violated its obligations to uphold human rights provided for under its constitution and international law; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. REID, Mrs. SHAREREN, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. MENENDEZ): S. Res. 356. A resolution calling upon the Government of Turkey to facilitate the reopening of the Ecumenical Patriarchate’s Theological School of Halki without condition or further delay; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. INOUYE (for himself and Mr. REID): S. Res. 357. A resolution urging the people of the United States to observe Global Family Day and One Day of Peace and Sharing; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 148, a bill to restore the rule that agreements between manufacturers and retailers, distributors, or wholesalers and the minimum price below which the manufacturer's product or service cannot be sold violates the Sherman Act.

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senators from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) were added as cosponsors of S. 170, a bill to designate certain service in the reserve components as active service for purposes of laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.
At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1859, a bill to reinstate Federal matching of State spending of child support incentive payments.

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1963, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide assistance to caregivers of veterans, to improve the provision of health care to veterans, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. LEMIEUX, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBILSS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2128, a bill to provide for the establishment of the Office of Deputy Secretary for Health Care Fraud Prevention.

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. KAUFMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2727, a bill to provide for continued application of arrangements under the Protocol on Inspections and Monitored Monitoring Activities Relating to the Treaty Between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms in the period following the Protocol’s termination on December 5, 2009.

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2730, a bill to extend and enhance the COBRA subsidy program under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2743, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the award of a military service medal to members of the Armed Forces who served honorably during the Cold War, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2787, a bill to repeal the authority of the Secretary of the Treasury to extend the Troubled Asset Relief Program.

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. RMIID) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 316, a resolution calling upon 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, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 337, a resolution designating December 6, 2009, as “National Miners Day”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2785

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2785 proposed to S. 1963, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide assistance to caregivers of veterans, to improve the provision of health care to veterans, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 2800. A bill to amend subtitle B of title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to improve the education for homeless children and youth, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about legislation that I introduced with Senator FRANKEN today that is essential to the academic success of millions of vulnerable children and youth.

The Educational Success for Children and Youth Without Homes Act responds to the growing crisis of homelessness in our Nation. The legislation will help homeless children and youth thrive in school, despite the constant moves, trauma, and loss associated with homelessness.

This legislation is needed now more than ever. The economic downturn and foreclosure crisis have had a significant impact on homelessness. Public schools reported a 17-percent increase in the number of homeless students in 2007. In Washington State, the number of homeless students has increased dramatically. For example, the number of homeless students enrolled in Whatcom County Schools increased by 66 percent over the past 2 years; in Evergreen Public Schools, there has been a 56-percent increase over the past 2 years. This Fall, many schools face a veritable tidal wave of homelessness. Over one million children and youth are now homeless in our Nation.

The recession has contributed to homelessness among elementary school students: children who are homeless with their families, and youth who are homeless on their own. This reality was brought starkly to light in the recent New York Times series about runaway and homeless youth. The series found a 40-percent increase in the number of homeless youth living on their own last year, more than double the number in 2003. The conclusion that “Foreclosures, layoffs, rising food and fuel prices and inadequate supplies of low-cost housing have stretched families to the extreme, and those pressures have trickled down to teenagers and youth.”

School offers homeless children and youth structure, normalcy, support, and hope—it is a place where they can obtain the skills that they will need to avoid poverty and homelessness as adults. Yet these students face great educational challenges. High mobility, precarious living conditions, and severe poverty combine to create major barriers to school enrollment and regular attendance. Many homeless children and youth lack basic supplies and a reasonable environment where they can do homework. As a result of their circumstances, homeless students often perform below their peers in math and reading and are more likely to be held back.

We must do more to assist these students so they do not continue to be left behind. The Educational Success for Children and Youth Without Homes Act of 2009 would do just that. The bill responds to the McKinney-Vento Act’s Education for Homeless Children and Youth program. It makes a strong law even stronger by reinforcing and expanding the law’s key provisions: school stability, enrollment, and support for academic achievement.

This legislation will enhance the right of homeless children to stay in the same school, so that children who have lost their homes do not also lose their schools. It will assist schools in meeting the challenges of transporting homeless students by increasing the authorized funding level and allowing other Federal funds for educating low-income students to be used for homeless transportation. When staying in the same school is not possible, or not in a child’s best interest, the legislation will help the student make a seamless transition to a new school.

This bill will help students like Kyle, a 4th-grade student in Spokane. Due to the instability of homelessness, Kyle moved around with his family most of his life. In fact, he moved eleven times. There were large gaps where he had not gone to school at all, because of his family’s frequent moves. Yet although Kyle moved eleven times, the homeless education program in Spokane was able to keep him stable in one school. Because he had the opportunity to attend one school consistently, the school district was able to determine that his academic and behavioral struggles were caused by more than just homelessness. A recent evaluation revealed that he was nearly deaf in both ears. He now has hearing aids in both ears and told his teacher: