

By Mr. ROTH, from the Committee on Finance, without amendment:

S. 1254. A original bill to establish a comprehensive strategy for the elimination of market-distorting practices affecting the global steel industry, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. GRAMS:

S. 1245. A bill to allow access for researchers to Continuous Work History Sample data of the Social Security Administration; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TORRICELLI (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. DODD, and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. 1246. A bill to amend title 4 of the United States Code to prohibit the imposition of discriminatory commuter taxes by political subdivisions of States; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRAMS:

S. 1247. A bill to develop and apply a Consumer Price Index that accurately reflects the cost-of-living for older Americans who receive social security benefits under title II of the Social Security Act; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. LOTT (for Mr. McCAIN (for himself and Mr. HOLLINGS)):

S. 1248. A bill to correct errors in the authorizations of certain programs administered by the National Highway Traffic Administration; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. TORRICELLI:

S. 1249. A bill to deny Federal public benefits to individuals who participated in Nazi persecution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER:

S. 1250. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure a continuum of health care for veterans, to require pilot programs relating to long-term health care for veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. MACK):

S. 1251. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national cemetery for veterans in the Miami, Florida metropolitan area; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. DORGAN (for himself, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mr. BYRD):

S. 1252. A bill to provide parents, taxpayers, and educators with useful, understandable school reports; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. INOUE (for himself, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BREAUX, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 1253. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Commerce, through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to provide financial assistance for coral reef conservation projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. ROTH:

S. 1254. An original bill to establish a comprehensive strategy for the elimination of market-distorting practices affecting the global steel industry, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Finance; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. McCAIN):

S. 1255. A bill to protect consumers and promote electronic commerce by amending certain trademark infringement, dilution, and counterfeiting laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DASCHLE:

S. 1256. A bill entitled the "Patients' Bill of Rights"; read the first time.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. GRAMS:

S. 1245. A bill to allow access for researchers to Continuous Work History Sample data of the Social Security Administration; to the Committee on Finance.

SOCIAL SECURITY'S CONTINUOUS WORK HISTORY SAMPLE (CWHs)

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity to introduce another Social Security-related bill.

This bill would give all researchers access to Social Security's Continuous Work History Sample (CWHs).

The access to the CWHs is critical for the general public and other government agencies to fully evaluate the working of the current system and estimate the budgetary impact of any changes that need to be made in the future.

The CWHs is a key set of data which holds information on the work and benefit histories of Social Security program participants. Until 1976, this data was widely available to federal, state agencies, universities and private research groups.

There is no evidence of any misuse of the CWHs in the period before 1976.

The 1976 Tax Reform Act denied access to CWHs data to almost all users outside of the Internal Revenue Service and the Social Security Administration.

Although it later extended the access to a few units of government agencies, private researchers are still denied access. The excuse was to protect privacy.

However, the IRS is covered by the same law. But it has interpreted the law to enable it to make samples of individual tax returns available to researchers on the basis that identifiers must be removed and the research must be bona fide.

Mr. President, if the IRS can make its data available to researchers, why cannot the SSA do the same?

Last year, during a Budget Committee hearing, I asked SSA Commissioner Apfel about this. Here is his reply:

The SSA supports, in principle, the idea of making data from our administrative records available to researchers in order to better inform the ongoing debate on the future of Social Security.

The National Research Council and other academic institutions also sup-

port to give researchers access to the CWHs.

My legislation would amend the 1976 Tax Reform Act to allow bona fide researchers access to CWHs data, and at the same time protect the confidentiality and privacy of program participants.

It also requires researchers to sign a legally binding agreement that restricts use of the data to the research and forbids the disclosure of information that could be used to identify individuals.

Mr. President, this is "good government" legislation. Allowing access to CWHs data will open the entire Social Security system to outside scrutiny.

It will significantly improve oversight of the program and enable Americans to know everything they need to know about how the system operates and what changes are needed to make it solvent.

I, therefore, urge my colleagues to support these legislative initiatives.

By Mr. TORRICELLI (for himself,

Mr. LIEBERMAN and Mr. DODD):

S. 1246. A bill to amend title 4 of the United States Code to prohibit the imposition of discriminatory commuter taxes by political subdivisions of States; to the Committee on Finance.

TAX FAIRNESS FOR COMMUTERS ACT

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today with my colleagues from Connecticut, Senator LIEBERMAN and Senator DODD to introduce the Tax Fairness for Commuters Act. Last month, Governor Pataki of New York signed legislation to "repeal" the New York City commuter tax. However, the legislation signed into law only repealed the tax for residents of New York. The over 300,000 residents of Connecticut and New Jersey will still be subjected to this tax.

I believe that the lawsuit jointly undertaken by New Jersey and Connecticut along with the city of New York and affected commuters will ultimately prevail and this attempt will be proven unconstitutional. However, I am concerned about the attempted precedent that has been set.

Our legislation will remove the temptation of any State or any city to impose higher taxes on non-residents than it does on residents. The bill is very simple. It says that a State or city may not impose a higher tax on the income earned by non-residents than it does on residents. I hope that each Senator, no matter what part of the country they are from, will recognize the inherent danger in discriminatory taxes of this nature and will support this effort.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the legislation be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows: