CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

May 25, 1999

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

By Mr. ASHCROFT:
S. 1113. A bill to amend title XXIV of the Revised Statutes, relating to civil rights, to prohibit discrimination by governmental organizations and certain individuals on the basis of religion in the distribution of government funds to provide government assistance and the distribution of the assistance, to allow the organizations to accept the funds to provide the assistance to the individuals without impairing the religious character of the organizations or the religious freedom of the individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. ENZI:
S. 1114. A bill to amend the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 to establish a more cooperative and effective method for rulemaking that takes into account the special needs and concerns of smaller miners; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SPECKER:
S. 1115. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national cemetery for veterans in the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, area; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

By Mr. NICKLES:
S. 1116. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude income from the transportation of oil and gas by pipeline from subpart F income; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LOTT (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. ROBB, and Mr. JEFFORDS):
S. 1117. A bill to establish the Corinith Unit of Shiloh National Military Park, in the vicinity of the city of Corinth, Mississippi, and in the State of Tennessee, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. GREGG, Mr. SANTORUM, and Mr. MONTANAN):
S. 1118. A bill to amend the Agricultural Market Transition Act to convert the price support program for sugarcane and sugar beets into a system of solely recourse loans to provide for the gradual elimination of the program; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BREAUX:
S. 1119. A bill to amend the Act of August 9, 1950, to continue funding of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. TORRICELLI (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. LUTENBERG, Mr. BRYAN,
In the past three years, we have begun to hear about how Charitable Choice is opening doors for the government to work together to help our nation's poor and needy gain hope and self-sufficiency. For example, shortly after passage of the federal welfare law, Governor George Bush of Texas signed an executive order directing all pertinent executive branch agencies to take all necessary steps to implement the 'charitable choice' provision of the federal welfare law.” Cookman United Methodist Church, a 100 member parish in Philadelphia, received a state contract to run its “Transitional Journey Ministry,” which provides life and job skills to welfare mothers and places them into jobs with benefits. In less than a year, the church placed 22 welfare recipients into jobs. Payne Memo- 
rials Outreach Center, a 501(c)(3) organization of a Baltimore church, has helped over 450 welfare recipients find jobs under a state contract.

In light of these success stories around the nation, more and more states and counties are beginning to see what a critical role the faith-based community can play in helping people move off of welfare. They are eager to put the Charitable Choice concept into action in their communities.

We have always known that Charitable Choice is truly bipartisan in nature, and has the support of over 35 organizations that span a wide political and social spectrum. Members from both sides of the aisle here in the Senate have voted in support of this provision. And now, with the Vice President's support for Charitable Choice, I am reintroducing legislation that I introduced in the 105th Congress, the "Charitable Choice Expansion Act," which would expand the Charitable Choice concept across all federally funded social service programs.

The substance of the Charitable Choice Expansion Act is virtually identical to that of the original Charitable Choice provision of the welfare reform law. The only real difference between the two provisions is that the new bill covers many more federal programs than the original provision.

While the original Charitable Choice provision applies mainly to the new welfare reform block grant program, the Charitable Choice Expansion Act applies to all federal government programs in which the government is authorized to use nongovernmental organizations to provide federally funded services to beneficiaries. Some of the programs that would be covered under this legislation include housing, substance abuse prevention and treatment, seniors services, the Social Services Block Grant, abstinence education and child welfare services.

With this recent expression of bipartisan support for Charitable Choice from the Vice President, now is the