

LEAHY, Mr. ENZI, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. HAGEL, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. GORTON, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. HELMS, Mr. ALLARD, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. L. CHAFEE, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. BROWNBACK, and Mr. VOINOVICH):

S. 2365. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to eliminate the 15 percent reduction in payment rates under the prospective payment system for home health services; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. GREGG, Mr. ENZI, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. HAGEL, and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. 2366. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend provisions relating to the Organ Procurement Transplantation Network; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. INOUE):

S. 2367. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to make improvements to, and permanently authorize, the visa waiver pilot program under the Act; 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. ABRAHAM (for himself and Mr. LEVIN):

S. Res. 281. A resolution to congratulate the Michigan State University Men's Basketball Team on winning the 2000 National Collegiate Athletic Association Men's Basketball Championship; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. Res. 282. A resolution congratulating the Huskies of the University of Connecticut for winning the 2000 Women's Basketball Championship; considered and agreed to.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. INOUE):

S. 2357. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive military retired pay concurrently with veterans' disability compensation; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

ARMED FORCES CONCURRENT RETIREMENT AND DISABILITY PAYMENT ACT OF 2000

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am pleased today to introduce legislation along with my esteemed colleague Senator INOUE that will correct an inequity for veterans who have retired from our Armed Forces with a service-connected disability.

Our legislation will permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service connected disability to receive military retired pay concur-

rently with veterans' disability compensation.

Mr. President, disabled military retirees are only entitled to receive disability compensation if they agree to waive a portion of their retired pay equal to the amount of compensation. This requirement discriminates unfairly against disabled career soldiers by requiring them to essentially pay their own disability compensation.

Military retirement pay and disability compensation were earned and awarded for entirely different purposes. Current law ignores the distinction between these two entitlements. Members of our Armed Forces have dedicated 20 or more years to our country's defense earning their retirement for service. Whereas disability compensation is awarded to a veteran for injury incurred in the line of duty.

It is inequitable and unfair for our veterans not to receive both of these payments concurrently. We have an opportunity to show our gratitude to these remarkable men and women who have sacrificed so much for this great country of ours. I hope the Senate will seriously consider passing this legislation, to end at last, this disservice to our retired military men and women.

Mr. President, this legislation represents an honest attempt to correct an injustice that has existed for far too long. Allowing disabled veterans to receive military retired pay and veterans disability compensation concurrently will restore fairness to Federal retirement policy.

This legislation is supported by veterans service organizations, including the Disabled American Veterans, the American Legion, and Paralyzed Veterans of America. This is simply the right thing to do. Our veterans have earned this and now it is our chance to honor their service to our nation.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the Armed Forces Concurrent Retirement Disability Payment Act of 2000 and attached documents be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 2357

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Armed Forces Concurrent Retirement and Disability Payment Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. CONCURRENT PAYMENT OF RETIRED PAY AND COMPENSATION FOR RETIRED MEMBERS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES.

(a) CONCURRENT PAYMENT.—Section 5304(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (1) and section 5305 of this title, compensation under chapter 11 of this title may be paid to a person entitled to receive retired or retirement pay described in such

section 5305 concurrently with such person's receipt of such retired or retirement pay."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act, and apply with respect to payments of compensation for months beginning on or after that date.

(c) PROHIBITION ON RETROACTIVE BENEFITS.—No benefits shall be paid to any person by virtue of the amendment made by subsection (a) for any period before the effective date of this Act as specified in subsection (b).

NEVADA PARALYZED
VETERANS OF AMERICA,
Las Vegas, NV, April 4, 2000.

Senator HARRY REID,
Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR REID: Nevada Paralyzed Veterans of America is dedicated to all efforts that will support and enhance the quality of life of our members. We consider ourselves an important voice of reason and logic when issues of substance arise regarding legislation and health care. In the tradition of excellence that we acquired during our active military training we continue to strive to maintain the same in promoting quality of life post disability.

As President of Nevada Paralyzed Veterans of America (Nevada PVA), I would like to offer my support of your legislation to permit the concurrent receipt of service-connected disability compensation and retirement pay, without deductions. Nevada PVA has consistently supported legislation that would attempt to remedy the unjust disparity in benefits for the men and women who have served in our Armed Services.

While Nevada PVA supports these measures, as we have in the past, we must be assured that the other benefits currently being received by veterans are in no way compromised or reduced. VA has just recently begun getting the funding it needs to avoid the devastating effects of past flat-lined budgets. We hope that Congress will see the wisdom of providing concurrent receipts.

Thank you again for your continued support of our veterans and for your legislation. We look forward to the passage of your bill and the benefits it will bring to our deserving service-connected disabled veterans.

Sincerely,

LUPO A. QUITTORIANO, Ph.D.,
President.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS,
DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA,
Las Vegas, NV, April 4, 2000.

Senator HARRY REID.

DEAR SIR: It is our understanding that you are about to introduce legislation that would establish "Concurrent Payments of Department of Veterans Affairs Disability Compensation and Military Retirement".

The Department of Nevada DAV goes on record, with the National DAV, in supporting such legislation.

I submit, for your perusal, Resolution #30 from the DAV Legislative Program, approved at convention in 1999.

"Whereas, ex-service members who are retired from the military on length of service must waive a portion of their retired pay in order to receive disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and

"Whereas, it would be more equitable if the laws and regulations were changed to provide that in such cases the veteran would be entitled to receive both benefits concurrently since eligibility was established and