

Grants, or Cooperative Agreements for Prototype Projects" (RIN0790-AG79) received on June 1, 2000; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-9261. A communication from the Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Transactions Other Than Contracts, Grants, or Cooperative Agreements for Prototype Projects" (RIN0790-AG79) received on June 1, 2000; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-9262. A communication from the Acting Director, Defense Procurement, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Waiver of Cost Accounting Standards" (DFARS Case 2000-D012) received on June 5, 2000; to the Committee on Armed Services.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. McCAIN, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2046: A bill to reauthorize the Next Generation Internet Act, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-310).

#### 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. L. CHAFEE (for himself, Mr. KOHL, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mrs. LINCOLN):

S. 2747. A bill to expand the Federal tax refund intercept program to cover children who are not minors; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 2748. A bill to prohibit the rescheduling or forgiveness of any outstanding bilateral debt owed to the United States by the Government of the Russian Federation until the President certifies to the Congress that the Government of the Russian Federation has ceased all its operations at, removed all personnel from, and permanently closed the intelligence facility at Lourdes, Cuba; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. L. CHAFFEE (for himself, Mr. KOHL, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mrs. LINCOLN):

S. 2747. A bill to expand the Federal tax refund intercept program to cover children who are not minors; to the Committee on Finance.

##### CHILD SUPPORT FAIRNESS AND TAX REFUND INTERCEPTION ACT OF 2000

Mr. L. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I am pleased to be joined today by Senators KOHL, GRAHAM, and LINCOLN in introducing the Child Support Fairness and Tax Refund Interception Act of 2000.

The Child Support Fairness and Tax Refund Interception Act of 2000 closes a

loophole in current federal statute by expanding the eligibility of one of the most effective means of enforcing child support orders—that of intercepting the federal tax refunds of parents who are delinquent in paying their court-ordered financial support for their children.

Under current law, eligibility for the federal tax refund offset program is limited to cases involving minors, parents on public assistance, or adult children who are disabled. Custodial parents of adult, non-disabled children are not assisted under the IRS tax refund intercept program, and in many cases, they must work multiple jobs in order to make ends meet. Some of these parents have gone into debt to put their college-age children through school.

The legislation we are introducing today will address this inequity by expanding the eligibility of the federal tax refund offset program to cover parents of all children, regardless of whether the child is disabled or a minor. This legislation will not create a cause of action for a custodial parent to seek additional child support. It will merely assist the custodial parent in recovering debt that is owed for a level of child support that was determined by a court.

Improving our child support enforcement programs is an issue that should be of concern to us all as it remains a serious problem in the United States. According to the most recent Government statistics, there are approximately twelve million active cases in which a child support order requires a noncustodial parent to contribute to the support of his or her child. Of the \$13.7 billion owed in 1998, only \$6.9 billion has been collected. It is important to note that this data does not include reporting from many states, including California, New York, Florida, and Illinois. In 1998, only 23 percent of children entitled to child support through our public system received some form of payment, despite Federal and State efforts. Similar shortfalls in previous years bring the combined delinquency total to approximately \$47 billion. We can fix this injustice in our Federal tax refund offset program by helping some of our most needy constituents receive the financial assistance they are owed.

While the administration has been somewhat successful in using tax refunds as a tool to collect child support payments, more needs to be done. The IRS tax refund interception program has only collected one-third of tardy child support payments. The Child Support Fairness and Tax Refund Interception Act of 2000 will remove the current barrier to fulfilling an individual's obligation to pay child support, while helping to provide for the future of our Nation's children.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation, and I ask unanimous consent that the legislation be printed in the RECORD.

S. 2747

*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 "Child Support Fairness and Tax Refund Interception Act of 2000".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Enforcing child support orders remains a serious problem in the United States. There are approximately 12,000,000 active cases in which a child support order requires a noncustodial parent to contribute to the support of his or her child. Of the \$13,700,000,000 owed in calendar year 1998 pursuant to such orders, \$6,900,000,000, or 51 percent, has been collected. However, this data does not include reporting from many States, including California, New York, Florida, and Illinois. Similar shortfalls in past years have brought the combined total of child support owed to \$47,400,000,000 by the end of fiscal year 1997.

(2) It is an injustice for the Federal Government to issue tax refunds to a deadbeat spouse while a custodial parent has to work 2 or 3 jobs to account for the shortfall in providing for their children.

(3) The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) program to intercept the tax refunds of parents who owe child support arrears has been successful in collecting more than 1/3 of such arrears.

(4) The Congress has periodically expanded eligibility for the IRS tax refund intercept program. Initially, the program was limited to intercepting Federal tax refunds owed to parents on public assistance. In 1984, Congress expanded the program to cover refunds owed to parents not on public assistance. Finally, the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 made the program permanent and expanded the program to cover refunds owed to parents of adult children who are disabled.

(5) The injustice to the custodial parent is the same regardless of whether the child is disabled, non-disabled, a minor, or an adult, so long as the child support obligation is provided for by a court or administrative order. It is common for parents to help their adult children finance a college education, a wedding, or a first home. Some parents cannot afford to do that because they are recovering from debt they incurred to cover expenses that would have been covered if they had been paid the child support owed to them in a timely manner.

(6) This Act would address this injustice by expanding the program to cover parents of all adult children, regardless of whether the child is disabled.

(7) This Act does not create a cause of action for a custodial parent to seek additional child support. This Act merely helps the custodial parent recover debt they are owed for a level of child support that was set by a court after both sides had the opportunity to present their arguments about the proper amount of child support.

#### SEC. 3. USE OF TAX REFUND INTERCEPT PROGRAM TO COLLECT PAST-DUE CHILD SUPPORT ON BEHALF OF CHILDREN WHO ARE NOT MINORS.

Section 464 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 664) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)(A), by striking "(as that term is defined for purposes of this paragraph under subsection (c))"; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking "(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), as used in" and inserting "In"; and

(ii) by inserting "(whether or not a minor)" after "a child" each place it appears; and

(B) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3).

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation, the Child Support Fairness and Tax Refund Interception Act, with my colleague from Rhode Island, Senator CHAFEE, as well as Senators GRAHAM and LINCOLN. This legislation is designed to increase child support collections across the country by allowing more parents to secure overdue support payments through the tax refund offset program.

Child support enforcement is an issue that I care a great deal about. Every day, far too many children in this country go without the resources they need to learn and grow in healthy, nurturing environments. Working to improve the lives and futures of these children in need should count amount our highest priorities, and we can do just that by improving our system of child support enforcement.

This legislation that we are introducing today proposes one such improvement by seeking to expand the use of an important enforcement tool. As my colleagues may know, under current law, custodial parents are eligible to use the tax refund offset program if their child support cases involve minors, adult disabled children, or parents on public assistance. The offset program has played a key role in securing overdue support payments. In fact, along with wage withholding, the offset program counts as one of the most effective tools that custodial parents owed support have at their disposal. For the 1998 tax year, the federal government collected a record \$1.3 billion in overdue support through the tax offset program, an 18 percent increase over the previous year and a 99 percent increase since 1992. These collections yielded benefits to approximately 1.4 million families.

Yet despite these admirable gains, under current law, the benefits of the tax refund offset program are not available to other custodial parents, those who have adult children, who are rightfully owed past-due support. Our legislation would address this issue by allowing all parents who are owed overdue court-ordered support to be eligible for the offset program, regardless of whether their child is disabled or a minor. We believe that this straightforward change will both increase child support collections and help ease the burdens of many custodial parents. It will assist those parents who may have worked multiple jobs and struggled to provide for their children but who may still have difficulty recovering child support debt owed to them without the assistance of the offset program.

Our Nation's unacceptably low rate of child support enforcement is a national crisis. Our public system collects only 23 percent of its caseload,

and over \$47 billion in overdue support is owed to our nation's children. Clearly, we must do all we can to address this very serious problem.

I urge my colleagues to join with Senators CHAFEE, GRAHAM, LINCOLN, and myself is supporting this important legislation. It will expand one effective tool in the enforcement arsenal and help increase the resources available to families in need.

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

S. 2748. A bill to prohibit the rescheduling or forgiveness of any outstanding bilateral debt owed to the United States by the Government of the Russian Federation until the President certifies to the Congress that the Government of the Russian Federation has ceased all its operations at, removed all personnel from, and permanently closed the intelligence facility at Lourdes, Cuba.

THE RUSSIAN-AMERICAN TRUST AND COOPERATION ACT OF 2000

• Mr. MACK. Mr. President, I rise today to offer a common sense piece of legislation that would prohibit the rescheduling or forgiveness of any outstanding bilateral debt owed to the United States by the Government of the Russian Federation until the President of the United States certifies to the Congress that Russia has ceased all operations and permanently closed its intelligence facility at Lourdes, Cuba. Currently the Government of the Russian Federation maintains a signals intelligence facility in Lourdes, Cuba from which it conducts intelligence activities directed against the United States. The Secretary of Defense has reported that the Russian Federation leases the Lourdes facility for an estimated \$100 to \$300 million every year. This is several hundred million dollars flowing to support a brutal tyrant for the purpose of supporting espionage.

Mr. President, the United States should prohibit debt rescheduling and forgiveness for a country that is conducting espionage activities against America, while infusing Castro's despotic government with between \$100 million and \$300 million per year.

I am pleased to have my colleague from New Jersey as a cosponsor of this legislation and I look forward to working with my colleagues to quickly pass this important bill. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 2748

*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 "Russian-American Trust and Cooperation Act of 2000".

**SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

The Congress makes the following findings:  
(1) The Government of the Russian Federation maintains an agreement with the Government of Cuba which allows Russia to operate an intelligence facility at Lourdes, Cuba.

(2) The Secretary of Defense has formally expressed concerns to the Congress regarding the espionage complex at Lourdes, Cuba, and its use as a base for intelligence activities directed against the United States.

(3) The Secretary of Defense, referring to a 1998 Defense Intelligence Agency assessment, has reported that the Russian Federation leases the Lourdes facility for an estimated \$100,000,000 to \$300,000,000 a year.

(4) It has been reported that the Lourdes facility is the largest such complex operated by the Russian Federation and its intelligence service outside the region of the former Soviet Union.

(5) The Lourdes facility is reported to cover a 28 square-mile area with over 1,500 Russian engineers, technicians, and military personnel working at the base.

(6) Experts familiar with the Lourdes facility have reportedly confirmed that the base has multiple groups of tracking dishes and its own satellite system, with some groups used to intercept telephone calls, faxes, and computer communications, in general, and with other groups used to cover targeted telephones and devices.

(7) News sources have reported that the predecessor regime to the Government of the Russian Federation had obtained sensitive information about United States military operations during Operation Desert Storm through the Lourdes facility.

(8) Academic studies assessing the threat the Lourdes espionage station poses to the United States cite official United States sources affirming that the Lourdes facility is being used to collect personal information about United States citizens in the private and government sectors, and offers the means to engage in cyberwarfare against the United States.

(9) It has been reported that the operational significance of the Lourdes facility has grown dramatically since February 7, 1996, when then Russian President, Boris Yeltsin, issued an order demanding that the Russian intelligence community increase its gathering of United States and other Western economic and trade secrets.

(10) It has been reported that the Government of the Russian Federation is estimated to have spent in excess of \$3,000,000,000 in the operation and modernization of the Lourdes facility.

(11) Former United States Government officials have been quoted confirming reports about the Russian Federation's expansion and upgrade of the Lourdes facility.

(12) It was reported in December 1999 that a high-ranking Russian military delegation headed by Deputy Chief of the General Staff Colonel-General Valentin Korabelnikov visited Cuba to discuss the continuing Russian operation of the Lourdes facility.

**SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON BILATERAL DEBT RESCHEDULING AND FORGIVENESS FOR THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.**

(a) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the President—

(1) shall not reschedule or forgive any outstanding bilateral debt owed to the United States by the Government of the Russian Federation, and

(2) shall instruct the United States representative to the Paris Club of official creditors to use the voice and vote of the

United States to oppose rescheduling or forgiveness of any outstanding bilateral debt owed by the Government of the Russian Federation,

until the President certifies to the Congress that the Government of the Russian Federation has ceased all its operations at, removed all personnel from, and permanently closed the intelligence facility at Lourdes, Cuba.

(b) WAIVER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may waive the application of subsection (a)(1) if, not less than 10 days before the waiver is to take effect, the President determines and certifies in writing to the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate that such waiver is necessary to the national interests of the United States.

(2) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.—If the President waives the application of subsection (a)(1) pursuant to paragraph (1), the President shall include in the written certification under paragraph (1) a detailed description of the facts that support the determination to waive the application of subsection (a)(1).

(3) SUBMISSION IN CLASSIFIED FORM.—If the President considers it appropriate, the written certification under paragraph (1), or appropriate parts thereof, may be submitted in classified form.

(c) PERIODIC REPORTS.—The President shall, every 180 days after the transmission of the written certification under subsection (b)(1), prepare and transmit to the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report that contains a description of the extent to which the requirements of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (b)(1) are being met.

#### SEC. 4. REPORT ON THE CLOSING OF THE INTELLIGENCE FACILITY AT LOURDES, CUBA.

Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 120 days thereafter until the President makes a certification under section 3, the President shall submit to the Committee on International Relations and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate a report (with a classified annex) detailing—

(1) the actions taken by the Government of the Russian Federation to terminate its presence and activities at the intelligence facility at Lourdes, Cuba; and

(2) the efforts by each appropriate Federal department or agency to verify the actions described in paragraph (1).●

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1020

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1020, a bill to amend chapter 1 of title 9, United States Code, to provide for greater fairness in the arbitration process relating to motor vehicle franchise contracts.

S. 1668

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1668, a bill to amend title VII of the

Civil Rights Act of 1964 to establish provisions with respect to religious accommodation in employment, and for other purposes.

S. 1726

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1726, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat for unemployment compensation purposes Indian tribal governments the same as State or local units of government or as nonprofit organizations.

S. 1810

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1810, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify and improve veterans' claims and appellate procedures.

S. 2018

At the request of Mr. ROBB, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2018, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to revise the update factor used in making payments to PPS hospitals under the medicare program.

S. 2100

At the request of Mr. EDWARDS, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2100, a bill to provide for fire sprinkler systems in public and private college and university housing and dormitories, including fraternity and sorority housing and dormitories.

S. 2330

At the request of Mr. ROTH, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2330, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on telephone and other communication services.

S. 2396

At the request of Mr. BENNETT, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2396, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into contracts with the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District, Utah, to use Weber Basin Project facilities for the impounding, storage, and carriage of non-project water for domestic, municipal, industrial, and other beneficial purposes.

S. 2417

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2417, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to increase funding for State nonpoint source pollution control programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2420

At the request of Mr. ROBB, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2420, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for the establishment

of a program under which long-term care insurance is made available to Federal employees, members of the uniformed services, and civilian and military retirees, and for other purposes.

S. 2510

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2510, a bill to establish the Social Security Protection, Preservation, and Reform Commission.

S. 2617

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2617, a bill to lift the trade embargo on Cuba, and for other purposes.

S. 2641

At the request of Mr. CLELAND, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2641, a bill to authorize the President to present a gold medal on behalf of Congress to former President Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalynn Carter in recognition of their service to the Nation.

S. 2645

At the request of Mr. THOMPSON, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. COVERDELL), the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2645, a bill to provide for the application of certain measures to the People's Republic of China in response to the illegal sale, transfer, or misuse of certain controlled goods, services, or technology, and for other purposes.

S. 2703

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CLELAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2703, a bill to amend the provisions of title 39, United States Code, relating to the manner in which pay policies and schedules and fringe benefit programs for postmasters are established.

S. 2745

At the request of Mr. ASHCROFT, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. GRAMS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2745, a bill to provide for grants to assist value-added agricultural businesses.

S. 2746

At the request of Mr. ASHCROFT, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. GRAMS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2746, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for investment by farmers in value-added agricultural property.

S. RES. 254

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. L. CHAFFEE), the Senator