

have failed to substantially comply with commitments made to the State of Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. COCHRAN (for himself, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. BREAUX, and Mr. LUGAR):

S. 1410. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the excise tax exemptions for aerial applicators of fertilizers or other substances; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CAMPBELL (for himself and Mr. ALLARD):

S. 1411. A bill to authorize the transfer of the Denver Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Colorado, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 128

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. BREAUX) was added as a cosponsor of S. 128, a bill to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to require periodic cost of living adjustments to the maximum amount of deposit insurance available under that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 311

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 311, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide for partnerships in character education.

S. 487

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 487, a bill to amend chapter 1 of title 17, United States Code, relating to the exemption of certain performances or displays for educational uses from copyright infringement provisions, to provide that the making of copies or phonorecords of such performances or displays is not an infringement under certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

S. 543

At the request of Mr. WELLSTONE, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 543, a bill to provide for equal coverage of mental health benefits with respect to health insurance coverage unless comparable limitations are imposed on medical and surgical benefits.

S. 567

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 567, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide capital gain treatment under section 631(b) of such Code for outright sales of timber by landowners.

S. 595

At the request of Mr. WELLSTONE, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 595, a bill to amend the Public

Health Service Act, Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for nondiscriminatory coverage for substance abuse treatment services under private group and individual health coverage.

S. 653

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 653, a bill to amend part D of title IV of the Social Security Act to provide grants to States to encourage media campaigns to promote responsible fatherhood skills, and for other purposes.

S. 677

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. WELLSTONE), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) were added as cosponsors of S. 677, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the required use of certain principal repayments on mortgage subsidy bond financing to redeem bonds, to modify the purchase price limitation under mortgage subsidy bond rules based on median family income, and for other purposes.

S. 694

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. CHAFEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 694, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that a deduction equal to fair market value shall be allowed for charitable contributions of literary, musical, artistic, or scholarly compositions created by the donor.

S. 736

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 736, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the appointment of a Chief of the Veterinary Corps of the Army in the grade of brigadier general, and for other purposes.

S. 805

At the request of Mr. WELLSTONE, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 805, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for research with respect to various forms of muscular dystrophy, including Duchenne, Becker, limb girdle, congenital, facioscapulohumeral, myotonic, oculopharyngeal, distal, and emery-dreifuss muscular dystrophies.

S. 847

At the request of Mr. DAYTON, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 847, a bill to impose tariff-rate quotas on certain casein and milk protein concentrates.

S. 866

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr.

LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 866, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a national media campaign to reduce and prevent underage drinking in the United States.

S. 917

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of S. 917, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income amounts received on account of claims based on certain unlawful discrimination and to allow income averaging for backpay and frontpay awards received on account of such claims, and for other purposes.

S. 953

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 953, a bill to establish a Blue Ribbon Study Panel and an Election Administration Commission to study voting procedures and election administration, to provide grants to modernize voting procedures and election administration, and for other purposes.

S. 998

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 998, a bill to expand the availability of oral health services by strengthening the dental workforce in designated underserved areas.

S. 1000

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CLELAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1000, a bill to amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 to provide incentive grants to improve the quality of child care.

S. 1014

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1014, a bill to amend the Social Security Act to enhance privacy protections for individuals, to prevent fraudulent misuse of the Social Security account number, and for other purposes.

S. 1036

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1036, a bill to amend the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954 to establish an international food for education and child nutrition program.

S. 1083

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1083, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to exclude clinical social worker services

from coverage under the medicare skilled nursing facility prospective payment system.

S. 1084

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. WELLSTONE) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1084, a bill to prohibit the importation into the United States of diamonds unless the countries exporting the diamonds have in place a system of controls on rough diamonds, and for other purposes.

S. 1140

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1140, 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. 1169

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1169, a bill to streamline the regulatory processes applicable to home health agencies under the medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act and the medicaid program under title XIX of such Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1201

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1201, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for S corporation reform, and for other purposes.

S. 1208

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 1208, a bill to combat the trafficking, distribution, and abuse of Ecstasy (and other club drugs) in the United States.

S. 1209

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1209, a bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to consolidate and improve the trade adjustment assistance programs, to provide community-based economic development assistance for trade-affected communities, and for other purposes.

S. 1349

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1349, a bill to provide for a National Stem Cell Donor Bank regarding qualifying human stem

cells, and for the conduct and support of research using such cells.

S. RES. 132

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. THURMOND) was added as a cosponsor of S.Res. 132, a resolution recognizing the social problem of child abuse and neglect, and supporting efforts to enhance public awareness of it.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER:

S. 1408. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to standardize the income threshold for copayment for outpatient medications with the income threshold for inability to defray necessary expense of care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I am pleased to introduce today legislation that would exempt certain veterans from copayments for needed prescription drugs.

Currently, veterans with incomes of less than \$24,000 a year are exempt from copayments for most VA health care services. However, when it comes to prescription drugs, the income threshold for exemption is just \$9,000 a year. Veterans earning over \$9,000, well below the poverty threshold established by the Census Bureau, are required to make copayments. These copayments place an undue burden on our poorest veterans. To compound the problem, the Department of Veterans Affairs recently proposed increasing the copayment for prescription drugs from \$2 to \$7 per 30-day prescription.

I have serious concerns about what this copayment increase will mean for veterans. Indeed, I have already heard from a number of veterans whose incomes hover just above the \$9,000 threshold, who must make the required copayments for their pharmaceuticals. Many of them are on several different medications for multiple medical conditions, each requiring their own copay. There are many veterans like Steven Smith, formerly of Greenwood, WV, who has no health insurance except Medicare and depends upon the VA for his medications. With the lack of a Medicare drug benefit, he, and many veterans like him, are faced with a 350 percent increase in what they must pay for life-sustaining medications.

I am not alone in my concerns about the impact the copayment increase will have on veterans. In commenting on the proposed regulations, the VFW recently cited an example of a veteran who has an annual income of \$10,500, just above the current exemption limit set by VA. The increase in the prescription copayment rate would force that veteran to allocate over 8 percent of his annual income just to prescription

drugs. There is a grave danger that, faced with this situation, many veterans will stop seeking necessary medical care because they are priced out of the system.

At a glance, the increase to \$7 per prescription may seem reasonable enough and in keeping with industry standards. However, consider a veteran with an income of about \$9,000 a year who currently pays \$2 per prescription for 10 medications a month. He presently incurs out-of-pocket costs of \$240 a year. Under the new regulations, his costs would go up to \$840 per year, an increase of \$600. For someone living barely over the \$9,000 annual income threshold, this is a substantial sum.

I am also concerned about disparities in how VA defines who is "poor" for the purpose of exemption from health care copayments. For prescription drugs, veterans with more than \$9,000 annual income must make copayments, but for outpatient care, hospitalization, and extended care, the income threshold for copayments is \$24,000 per year. My proposed legislation would raise the exemption level for prescription copays to make them the same as all other VA health care copays. It will be less confusing to veterans, easier to administer, and quite simply, it's the right thing to do.

My legislation, the Veterans' Copayment Adjustment Act, would also require VA to delay implementing the increase in prescription copayments until we see an adjustment to copayments for other health care services. On July 24, I held a hearing on prescription drug issues in VA. At that hearing, we heard testimony from VA Secretary Anthony Principi who also believes that new drug copayments shouldn't be put into effect until we see a reduction in other health care copayments.

As part of the Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act, Congress gave VA authority to adjust the different health care copayments. This was intended to make VA's copayments more rational. Currently, veterans must make a copayment of over \$50 for outpatient care services. There is no doubt that \$50 for a routine outpatient visit is unreasonable at best, and at worst, discourages veterans from getting the primary care they need. By delaying the increase in the medication copayment until VA implements its adjusted outpatient copayment, we will reduce the negative financial impact on our Nation's veterans. I am confident that VA will study this issue closely and will expeditiously set the outpatient copayment to be more in line with managed care plans.

I urge my Senate colleagues to join me in seeking to provide affordable health care for our sick and disabled veterans. They have sacrificed for all of us, and deserve every effort we can