

By Mr. JEFFORDS (for himself, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. BREAUX):

S. 801. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the limitation on the use of foreign tax credits under the alternative minimum tax; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BINGAMAN:

S. 802. A bill to assist low income taxpayers in preparing and filing their tax returns and to protect taxpayers from unscrupulous refund anticipation loan providers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 82

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 82, a bill to repeal the Federal estate and gift taxes and the tax on generation-skipping transfers.

S. 83

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 83, a bill to phase-out and repeal the Federal estate and gift taxes and the tax on generation-skipping transfers.

S. 84

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 84, a bill to increase the unified estate and gift taxes and the tax credit to exempt small businesses and farmers from estate taxes.

S. 85

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 85, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the gift tax exclusion to \$25,000.

S. 99

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. MILLER) and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. CARNAHAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 99, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit against tax for employers who provide child care assistance for dependents of their employees, and for other purposes.

S. 121

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. CHAFEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 121, a bill to establish an Office of Children's Services within the Department of Justice to coordinate and implement Government actions involving unaccompanied alien children, and for other purposes.

S. 133

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 133, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent

the exclusion for employer-provided educational assistance programs, and for other purposes.

S. 149

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 149, a bill to provide authority to control exports, and for other purposes.

S. 177

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 177, 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. 206

At the request of Mr. SHELBY, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. NICKLES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 206, a bill to repeal the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935, to enact the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 2001, and for other purposes.

S. 291

At the request of Mr. THOMPSON, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. MILLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 291, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction for State and local sales taxes in lieu of State and local income taxes and to allow the State and local income tax deduction against the alternative minimum tax.

S. 326

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. WELLSTONE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 326, 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 and to permanently increase payments for such services that are furnished in rural areas.

S. 333

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 333, a bill to provide tax and regulatory relief for farmers and to improve the competitiveness of American agricultural commodities and products in global markets.

S. 389

At the request of Mr. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 389, a bill to protect the energy and security of the United States and decrease America's dependency on foreign oil sources to 50% by the year 2011 by enhancing the use of renewable energy resources conserving energy resources, improving energy efficiencies, and increasing domestic energy supplies; improve environmental quality by reducing emissions of air pollutants and greenhouse gases; mitigate the ef-

fect of increases in energy prices on the American consumer, including the poor and the elderly; and for other purposes.

S. 452

At the request of Mr. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 452, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure that the Secretary of Health and Human Services provides appropriate guidance to physicians, providers of services, and ambulance providers that are attempting to properly submit claims under the medicare program to ensure that the Secretary does not target inadvertent billing errors.

S. 472

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 472, a bill to ensure that nuclear energy continues to contribute to the supply of electricity in the United States.

S. 500

At the request of Mr. BURNS, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 500, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 in order to require the Federal Communications Commission to fulfill the sufficient universal service support requirements for high cost areas, and for other purposes.

S. 543

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) 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. 592

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 592, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to create Individual Development Accounts, and for other purposes.

S. 627

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) were added as cosponsors of S. 627, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals a deduction for qualified long-term care insurance premiums, use of such insurance under cafeteria plans and flexible spending arrangements, and a credit for individuals with long-term care needs.

S. 706

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 706, a bill to amend the Social Security Act to establish programs to alleviate the nursing profession shortage, and for other purposes.

S. 755

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 755, a bill to continue State management of the West Coast Dungeness Crab fishery.

S.J. RES. 13

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 13, a joint resolution conferring honorary citizenship of the United States on Paul Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier, also known as the Marquis de Lafayette.

S. RES. 63

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH, of Oregon), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 63, a resolution commemorating and acknowledging the dedication and sacrifice made by the men and women who have lost their lives while serving as law enforcement officers.

S. RES. 71

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON, of Nebraska) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 71, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the need to preserve six day mail delivery.

S. CON. RES. 28

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 28, a concurrent resolution calling for a United States effort to end restrictions on the freedoms and human rights of the enslaved people in the occupied area of Cyprus.

S. CON. RES. 33

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 33, a concurrent resolution supporting a National Charter Schools Week.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LIEBERMAN:

S. 798. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow small business employers certain credits against income tax, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation, the Productivity, Opportunity, and Prosperity Act of 2001, that I believe will add some needed POP to our economy and that must be an integral compo-

nent of any strategy to extend our historical economic growth.

The primary goal of the Productivity, Opportunity, and Prosperity Act is to protect, stimulate and expand economic growth. Government's role is not to create jobs but to help create the environment in which the private sector will create jobs. This legislation helps to create the right context for private sector growth by providing incentives for investment in training, technology, and small entrepreneurial firms. These investments are critical to economic growth and the creation of jobs and wealth.

The Productivity, Opportunity, and Prosperity Act of 2001 is a tax package with a purpose. And that purpose is, above all else, to stimulate private sector economic growth, to raise the tide that lifts the lot of all Americans. In the spirit of the "New Economy," where the fundamentals of our economy have changed through entrepreneurship and innovation, this package includes business tax incentives that will spur the real drivers of growth: innovation, investment, a skilled workforce, and productivity.

The first component of this bill is a 30 percent tax credit for companies that invest in remedial education for their employees. Many companies today recognize that a skilled workforce is critical to success and they are eager to invest continuously in their employees. However, too often those companies seeking to upgrade worker skills are having to first make sizeable investments to simply make up for the skill deficits produced by the K-12 education system. For example, in my home state of Connecticut, I am aware of one small manufacturer with 25 employees that will train 20 of them in English as a Second Language at a cost of up to \$15,000. That is a significant investment and commitment by that company. Because too many workers did not learn the basic math, reading, and language skills in school, companies have to fix these deficiencies first, before they can train their workers on more advanced skills. This credit will help to offset those investments.

The bill's second component is a Small Business Digital Divide Tax Credit. It would create a 10 percent tax credit for small businesses, those with fewer than 100 employees, to encourage investment in information technology, for example servers, network hardware, initial broadband hookup, PCs, and e-Business software. This credit is critical for two reasons. First, because there is truly a small business digital divide in this country. Small firms are lagging in the productivity growth that has driven the economic boom of the late 90s. While small businesses account for 40 percent of our economy and 60 percent of the new jobs, less than one-third of them are wired to the Internet today. Those that are wired

have grown 46 percent faster than their counterparts who are unplugged. A recent study by the National Association of Manufacturers, NAM, shows that those small manufacturers surveyed averaged only about 2 percent of their sales over internet and less than 1 percent were in the advanced stages of e-commerce. Without expanding productivity improvements to small businesses, we cannot hope to sustain the economic growth of the last several years.

The second reason this credit is so important, is that it provides an immediate stimulus to our slowing economy. We know today that there has been a sharp downturn in technology-related capital spending that has helped power our economic growth. For example, Cisco Systems, whose products provide the foundation for our digital environment, estimates that its sales for the current quarter would be about 30 percent lower than the previous quarter and that they would fall again next quarter. By some projections, PC sales in this country this year will slow dramatically to virtually zero growth. In order to spur near term investment and provide an economic stimulus, this credit would be available immediately after enactment and through the end of 2002.

This bill's third component recognizes that entrepreneurship drives growth and that small, emerging companies need capital investment to innovate, create jobs, and create wealth. According to the National Commission on Entrepreneurship, a small subset of entrepreneurial firms that comprise only 5-15 percent of all U.S. businesses created about two-thirds of new jobs between 1993-96. Although venture capital is critical to the transition from a fledgling company to a growth company, only a small share of it is associated with small and new firms. In addition, we are currently experiencing a venture capital slow down that makes it even more difficult for small and new firms to attract capital. According to the National Venture Capital Association (NCVA), investment in the fourth quarter of last year slowed by more than 30 percent from the previous quarter.

For these reasons, the bill creates a zero capital gains rate for new, direct, long term investments by individuals and corporations in the stock of small businesses, those emerging, entrepreneurial companies that are core to our economic growth. Specifically, this legislation excludes from capital gains taxes 100 percent of new, long-term investments in these capital-intensive small businesses. It also changes the eligibility definition of a small business from \$50 million in capitalization to \$300 million while reducing the holding period for investments from 5 to 3 years. In addition, it also eliminates incentive stock options from the calculation of the Alternative Minimum