*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

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. EDWARDS:

S. 2303. A bill to help American families save, invest, and build a better future, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HAGEL:

S. 2304. A bill to amend the Reclamation Project Authorization Act of 1972 to clarify the acreage for which the North Loup division is authorized to provide irrigation water under the Missouri River Basin project; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

S. 2305. A bill to authorize programs that support economic and political development in the Greater Middle East and Central Asia and support for three new multilateral institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mr. SUNUNU):

S. 2306. A bill to reauthorize, restructure, and reform the intercity passenger rail service program; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 2307. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the importation of prescription drugs by importers, and by individuals for personal use, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORZINE (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 2308. A bill to provide for prompt payment and interest on late payments of health care claims; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DORGAN:

S. 2309. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a refundable wage differential credit for activated military reservists; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. NELSON of Florida, and Mr. REED):

S. 2310. A bill to promote the national security of the United States by facilitating the removal of potential nuclear weapons materials from vulnerable sites around the world, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 2311. A bill to provide for various energy efficiency programs and tax incentives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. CLINTON (for herself and Mr. DAYTON):

S. 2312. A bill to regulate the transmission of personally identifiable information to foreign affiliates and subcontractors; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. GRAHAM of Florida (for himself, Mrs. CLINTON, Mrs . BOXER, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. HOLLINGS, and Mrs. LINCOLN):

S. 2313. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require a voter-verified permanent record or hardcopy under title III of such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 2314. A bill for the relief of Nabil Raja Dandan, Ketty Dandan, Souzi Dandan, Raja Nabil Dandan, and Sandra Dandan; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BURNS:

S. 2315. A bill to amend the Communications Satellite Act of 1962 to extend the deadline for the INTELSAT initial public offering; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. 2316. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow penalty-free withdrawals from individual retirement plans for adoption expenses; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. THOMAS:

S. 2317. A bill to limit the royalty on soda ash; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. BAYH, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. REED):

S. 2318. A bill to expand upon the Department of Defense Energy Efficiency Program required by section 317 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2002 by authorizing the Secretary of Defense to enter into energy savings performance contracts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. FITZGERALD (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. Res. 334. A resolution designating May 2004 as National Electrical Safety Month; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. DORGAN):

S. Res. 335. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that Major League Baseball clubs and their players should take immediate action to adopt a drug-testing policy that effectively deters Major League Baseball players from using anabolic steroids and any other performance-enhancing substances that create a competitive advantage for, and pose a serious health risk to, such players and the children and teenagers who emulate them; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. FITZGERALD, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. COLEMAN, and Mr. LEVIN):

S. Res. 336. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the Nation during Public Service Recognition Week, May 3 through 9, 2004; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. GRAHAM of Florida, Mr. MILLER, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. BOND, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. BUNNING, and Mr. STEVENS):

S. Res. 337. A resolution expressing the appreciation of the Senate for the Paralyzed Veterans of America; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COLEMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DODD, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KERRY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CRAIG, and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. Res. 338. A resolution calling on the President to designate April 16, 2004, as National Youth Service Day, and for other purposes; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. CORZINE, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. Res. 339. A resolution urging the President to immediately instruct the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense to respectively begin initiating consultations with other members of the United Nations Security Council concerning a United Nations Security Council Resolution for Iraq, and with the Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) concerning a mandate for a NATO commitment for security in Iraq, with the goal of securing both not later than May 15, 2004; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself and Mr. FEINGOLD):

S. Con. Res. 99. A concurrent resolution condemning the Government of the Republic of the Sudan for its participation and complicity in the attacks against innocent civilians in the impoverished Darfur region of western Sudan; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 623

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 623, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.

S. 863

At the request of Mr. EDWARDS, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 863, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to allow soldiers to serve their country without being disadvantaged financially by Federal student aid programs.

S. 976

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 976, a bill to provide for the issuance of a coin to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the Jamestown settlement.

S. 1010

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1010, a bill to enhance and further research into paralysis and to improve rehabilitation and the quality of life for persons living with paralysis and other physical disabilities.

S. 1197

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1197, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to ensure the safety and accuracy of medical imaging examinations and radiation therapy treatments.

S. 1379

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1379, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of veterans who became disabled for life while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

S. 1638

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1638, a bill to amend title II of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to increase teacher familiarity with the educational needs of gifted and talented students, and for other purposes.

S. 1645

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1645, a bill to provide for the adjustment of status of certain foreign agricultural workers, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to reform the H–2A worker program under that Act, to provide a stable, legal agricultural workforce, to extend basic legal protections and better working conditions to more workers, and for other purposes.

S. 1737

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1737, a bill to amend the Clayton Act to enhance the authority of the Federal Trade Commission or the Attorney General to prevent anticompetitive practices in tightly concentrated gasoline markets.

S. 1755

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1755, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to provide grants to support farm-to-cafeteria projects.

S. 1873

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1873, a bill to require employees at a call center who either initiate or receive telephone calls to disclose the physical location of such employees, and for other purposes.

S. 1916

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) were added as cosponsors of S. 1916, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to increase the minimum Survivor Benefit Plan basic annuity for surviving spouses age 62 and older, to provide for a one-year open season under that plan, and for other purposes.

S. 1934

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1934, a bill to establish an Office of Intercountry Adoptions within the Department of State, and to reform United States laws governing intercountry adoptions.

S. 1961

At the request of Mr. HOLLINGS, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1961, a bill to provide for the revitalization and enhancement of the American passenger and freight rail transportation system.

S. 2088

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2088, a bill to restore, reaffirm, and reconcile legal rights and remedies under civil rights statutes.

S. 2215

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2215, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide funds for campus mental and behavioral health service centers.

S. 2234

At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2234, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure that prescription drug card sponsors pass along discounts to beneficiaries under the medicare prescription drug discount card and transitional assistance program.

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2234, supra.

S. 2236

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2236, a bill to enhance the reliability of the electric system.

S. 2252

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2252, a bill to increase the number aliens who may receive certain non-immigrant status during fiscal year 2004 and to require submissions of information by the Secretary of Homeland Security.

S. 2267

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) were added as cosponsors of S. 2267, a bill to amend section 29(k) of the Small Business Act to establish funding priorities for women's business centers.

S. 2271

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2271, a bill to establish national standards for discharges from cruise vessels into the waters of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2273

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2273, a bill to provide increased rail transportation security.

S. 2280

At the request of Mr. STEVENS, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2280, a bill to establish a coordinated national ocean exploration program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

S. 2292

At the request of Mr. VOINOVICH, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2292, a bill to require a report on acts of anti-Semitism around the world.

S.J. RES. 1

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 1, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to protect the rights of crime victims.

S.J. RES. 30

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. FRIST), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. TALENT) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 30, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to marriage.

S. CON. RES. 78

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 78, a concurrent resolution condemning the repression of the Iranian Baha'i community and calling for the emancipation of Iranian Baha'is.

S. CON. RES. 90

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 90, a concurrent resolution expressing the Sense of the Congress regarding negotiating, in the United States-Thailand Free Trade Agreement, access to the United States automobile industry.

S. RES. 221

At the request of Mr. SARBANES, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator

from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 221, a resolution recognizing National Historically Black Colleges and Universities and the importance and accomplishments of historically Black colleges and universities.

S. RES. 311

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 311, a resolution calling on the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to immediately and unconditionally release Father Thadeus Nguyen Van Ly, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 326

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 326, a resolution condemning ethnic violence in Kosovo.

S. RES. 330

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 330, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the President should communicate to the members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries ('OPEC') cartel and non-OPEC countries that participate in the cartel of crude oil producing countries the position of the United States in favor of increasing world crude oil supplies so as to achieve stable crude oil prices.

AMENDMENT NO. 3036

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3036 intended to be proposed to S. 1637, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to comply with the World Trade Organization rulings on the FSC/ETI benefit in a manner that preserves jobs and production activities in the United States, to reform and simplify the international taxation rules of the United States, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3043

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3043 intended to be proposed to S. 344, a bill expressing the policy of the United States regarding the United States relationship with Native Hawaiians and to provide a process for the recognition by the United States of the Native Hawaiian governing entity, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. EDWARDS:

S. 2303. A bill to help American families save, invest, and build a better future, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Better Future for American Families Act. Today's legislation will strengthen progressive tax credits to help middle-class families save, invest, and get ahead.

For more than 200 years, our country has been propelled by this single, powerful idea: All Americans should have the opportunity to rise as far as their hard work and God-given potential can take them. In the last generation, however, the American Dream of building something better has been replaced with the hope of just getting by.

Due to the rising costs of housing, health care, and other necessities, many families are no longer saving for the future. In fact, they need to borrow to get through the present. Personal bankruptcies reached an all-time high of 1.6 million a year in 2002. Almost one in five households approaching retirement can expect to retire in poverty, and this rate is even higher for African American and Hispanic households. The middle-class—the foundation of this country—is sinking.

If we want to create new wealth in this country, we should start by rewarding the work and responsibility of America's families. What's right for our economy, our democracy, and our society is consistent with our values as well: Every American should have the chance to be an owner—to buy a home, save for college, invest in America, or put money aside for a secure retirement.

In current law, there is a Saver's Credit that matches retirement savings of low-income families up to dollar-for-dollar. The credit has been a success, but it does suffer from some limitations.

First, the Saver's Credit will expire in 2006. The Republican budget plan fails to extend it, even as it extends other tax cuts enacted in 2001. My legislation would make it permanent.

Second, the credit phases out rapidly, providing only a small benefit to many middle-income families and creating high marginal tax rates for millions of savers. My legislation would expand benefits for families earning less than $50,000.

Finally, although 57 million taxpayers are eligible for the maximum credit on paper, 80 percent of them cannot actually benefit from it because they lack income tax liability. These are families that need help as much as anyone, and my legislation would make them eligible for the credit.

This legislation would make a real difference for American families. A family that saves the maximum under this plan every year from age 25 to retirement will have a nest egg of $200,000 on top of any other savings, pensions, and Social Security.

Here in Congress, it is our responsibility to make sure that families working for a living have the tools they need to move forward. My legislation is not about creating another government program to protect families; it is about helping families help themselves.

If we help families save, we can unleash a new era of possibilities with a stronger economy because we're saving and investing more; with families at ease because they have financial security; and with our children prospering because they have a strong foundation on which to build. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this effort.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the legislation be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 2393

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 ''Better Future for American Families Act''.

SEC. 2. MODIFICATIONS TO SAVER'S CREDIT.

(a) SAVER'S CREDIT.—Section 25B of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking the heading thereof and inserting ''THE SAVER'S CREDIT.''.

(b) MODIFICATIONS TO APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—Subsection (b) of section 25B of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

''(b) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—For purposes of this section—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The applicable percentage is 50 percent reduced (but not below zero) by 1 percentage point for each phaseout amount by which the taxpayer's adjusted gross income for the taxable year exceeds the threshold amount.

''(2) PHASEOUT AMOUNT; THRESHOLD AMOUNT.—The phaseout amount and the threshold amount shall be determined as follows:

In the case of an individual filing:	The phaseout amount is:	The threshold amount is:
A joint return	$400	$30,000
A head of household return.	$300	$22,500
Any other return.	$200	$15,000.''.

(c) REPEAL OF TERMINATION.—Section 25B of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking subsection (h).

(d) CREDIT REFUNDABLE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 25B of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended by this Act, is hereby moved to subpart C of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of such Code (relating to refundable credits) and inserted after section 35.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Section 24(b)(3)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''and 25B''.

(B) Section 25(e)(1)(C) of such Code is amended by striking '', 25B''.

(C) Section 26(a)(1) of such Code is amended by striking ''24, and 25B'' and inserting ''and 24''.

(D) Section 25B of such Code, as moved by paragraph (1), is redesignated as section 36.

(E) Section 904(h) of such Code is amended by striking ''24, and 25B'' and inserting '' and 24''.

(F) Section 1400C of such Code is amended by striking ''24, and 25B'' and inserting '' and 24''.

(G) The table of sections for subpart C of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of such