

Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WEBB, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. Res. 566. A resolution designating September 29, 2012, as "National Estuaries Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. Res. 567. A resolution honoring the life and career of George Hickman; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. REID, Mr. BEGICH, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. HELLER, Mr. ENZI, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BENNET, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. COONS, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. Res. 568. A resolution designating the week beginning September 16, 2012, as "National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ENZI, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. Res. 569. A resolution designating the week beginning October 21, 2012, as "National Character Counts Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. Res. 570. A resolution designating November 8, 2012, as "National Parents as Teachers Day"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 65

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 65, a bill to reauthorize the programs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development for housing assistance for Native Hawaiians.

S. 202

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 202, a bill to require a full audit of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal Reserve banks by the Comptroller General of the United States before the end of 2012, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 202, supra.

S. 227

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 227, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 274

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 274, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand access to medication therapy management services under the Medicare prescription drug program.

S. 339

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 339, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions.

S. 563

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 563, a bill to provide for equal access to COBRA continuation coverage.

S. 751

At the request of Mr. BROWN of Ohio, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 751, a bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to develop a comprehensive national manufacturing strategy, and for other purposes.

S. 810

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 810, a bill to prohibit the conducting of invasive research on great apes, and for other purposes.

S. 811

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 811, a bill to prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

S. 821

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 821, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate discrimination in the immigration laws by permitting permanent partners of United States citizens and lawful permanent residents to obtain lawful permanent resident status in the same manner as spouses of citizens and lawful permanent residents and to penalize immigration fraud in connection with permanent partnerships.

S. 891

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 891, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the recognition of attending physician assistants as attending physicians to serve hospice patients.

S. 961

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 961, a bill to create the income security conditions and family supports needed to ensure permanency for the Nation's unaccompanied youth, and for other purposes.

S. 996

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 996, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the new markets tax credit through 2016, and for other purposes.

S. 1171

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1171, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion from gross income for employer-provided health coverage for employees' spouses and dependent children to coverage provided to other eligible dependent beneficiaries of employees.

S. 1309

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1309, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to cover physician services delivered by podiatric physicians to ensure access by Medicaid beneficiaries to appropriate quality foot and ankle care.

S. 1391

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1391, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the disability compensation evaluation procedure of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder or mental health conditions related to military sexual trauma, and for other purposes.

S. 1450

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1450, a bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to provide for the establishment of a commercial truck safety program, and for other purposes.

S. 1454

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1454, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for extended months of Medicare coverage of immunosuppressive drugs for kidney transplant patients and other renal dialysis provisions.

S. 1461

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1461, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to clarify the Food and Drug Administration's jurisdiction over certain tobacco products, and to protect jobs and small businesses involved in the sale, manufacturing and distribution of traditional and premium cigars.

S. 1782

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1782, a bill to provide

for the reduction in unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, and the promotion of healthy relationships, and for other purposes.

S. 1862

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1862, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health of children and reduce the occurrence of sudden unexpected infant death and to enhance public health activities related to stillbirth.

S. 1872

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1872, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax treatment of ABLE accounts established under State programs for the care of family members with disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 1910

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 1910, a bill to provide benefits to domestic partners of Federal employees.

S. 2032

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2032, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 regarding proprietary institutions of higher education in order to protect students and taxpayers.

S. 2047

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2047, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to make demonstration grants to eligible local educational agencies for the purpose of reducing the student-to-school nurse ratio in public elementary schools and secondary schools.

S. 2057

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2057, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to allow physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists to supervise cardiac, intensive cardiac, and pulmonary rehabilitation programs.

S. 2088

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2088, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently double the amount of start-up expenses entrepreneurs can deduct from their taxes.

S. 2123

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr.

WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2123, a bill to amend title V of the Social Security Act to extend funding for family-to-family health information centers to help families of children with disabilities or special health care needs make informed choices about health care for their children.

S. 2189

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2189, a bill to amend the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 and other laws to clarify appropriate standards for Federal antidiscrimination and antiretaliation claims, and for other purposes.

S. 2192

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2192, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of optometrists in the National Health Service Corps scholarship and loan repayment programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2250

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2250, a bill to prevent homeowners from being forced to pay taxes on forgiven mortgage loan debt.

S. 2347

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2347, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure the continued access of Medicare beneficiaries to diagnostic imaging services.

S. 2472

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2472, a bill to provide for the issuance and sale of a semipostal by the United States Postal Service for research and demonstration projects relating to autism spectrum disorders.

S. 2620

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2620, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an extension of the Medicare-dependent hospital (MDH) program and the increased payments under the Medicare low-volume hospital program.

S. 3227

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3227, a bill to enable concrete masonry products manufacturers and importers to establish, finance, and carry out a coordinated program of research, education, and promotion to improve, maintain, and de-

velop markets for concrete masonry products.

S. 3239

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3239, a bill to provide for a uniform national standard for the housing and treatment of egg-laying hens, and for other purposes.

S. 3289

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3289, a bill to expand the Medicaid home and community-based services waiver to include young individuals who are in need of services that would otherwise be required to be provided through a psychiatric residential treatment facility, and to change references in Federal law to mental retardation to references to an intellectual disability.

S. 3310

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3310, a bill to direct the President, in consultation with the Department of State, United States Agency for International Development, Millennium Challenge Corporation, and the Department of Defense, to establish guidelines for United States foreign assistance programs, and for other purposes.

S. 3325

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3325, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, in coordination with the Secretary of Education, to carry out a 5-year demonstration program to fund mental health first aid training programs at 10 institutions of higher education to improve student mental health.

S. 3331

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3331, a bill to provide for universal intercountry adoption accreditation standards, and for other purposes.

S. 3347

At the request of Mr. BROWN of Ohio, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3347, a bill to require reports on countries with which the United States negotiates trade agreements, to establish terms for future trade agreements, and to enhance the promotion of exports of United States goods and services, and for other purposes.

S. 3391

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3391, a bill to amend section 353 of the Public Health Service

Act with respect to suspension, revocation, and limitation of laboratory certification.

S. 3394

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of S. 3394, a bill to address fee disclosure requirements under the Electronic Fund Transfer Act, to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act with respect to information provided to the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and for other purposes.

S. 3402

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3402, a bill to require the Secretary of Labor to maintain a publicly available list of all employers that relocate a call center overseas, to make such companies ineligible for Federal grants or guaranteed loans, and to require disclosure of the physical location of business agents engaging in customer service communications, and for other purposes.

S. 3407

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) were added as cosponsors of S. 3407, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of permanent faculty in palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, nursing schools, and other programs, to promote education in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine.

S. 3430

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3430, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to foster more effective implementation and coordination of clinical care for people with pre-diabetes and diabetes.

S. 3461

At the request of Mr. BROWN of Ohio, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3461, a bill to amend title IV of the Public Health Service Act to provide for a National Pediatric Research Network, including with respect to pediatric rare diseases or conditions.

S. 3463

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 3463, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security

Act to reduce the incidence of diabetes among Medicare beneficiaries.

S. 3494

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3494, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to qualify formerly homeless individuals who are full-time students for purposes of low income housing tax credit.

S. 3500

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3500, a bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to establish a procedure for approval of certain settlements.

S. 3512

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3512, a bill to amend subtitle D of the Solid Waste Disposal Act to facilitate recovery and beneficial use, and provide for the proper management and disposal, of materials generated by the combustion of coal and other fossil fuels.

S. 3522

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) were added as cosponsors of S. 3522, a bill to provide for the expansion of affordable refinancing of mortgages held by the Federal National Mortgage Association and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation.

S. 3523

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3523, a bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to extend protection to fashion design, and for other purposes.

S. 3525

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 3525, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

S. 3527

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3527, a bill to provide for enhanced criminal penalties for individuals who file a SEVP certification petition under false pretenses, to prohibit certain schools from accessing SEVIS or participating in the SEVP and for other purposes.

S. 3536

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3536, a bill to amend the Inter-

nal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the work opportunity credit for hiring veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 3539

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3539, a bill to encourage the adoption and use of certified electronic health record technology by safety net providers and clinics.

S. 3546

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 3546, a bill to amend the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to reauthorize a provision to ensure the survival and continuing vitality of Native American languages.

S. 3547

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3547, a bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to clarify provisions enacted by the Captive Wildlife Safety Act, to further the conservation of certain wildlife species, and for other purposes.

S. 3551

At the request of Mr. DEMINT, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 3551, a bill to require investigations into and a report on the September 11–13, 2012, attacks on the United States missions in Libya, Egypt, and Yemen, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 39

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 39, a joint resolution removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment.

S.J. RES. 50

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 50, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Office of Family Assistance of the Administration for Children and Families of the Department of Health and Human Services relating to waiver and expenditure authority under section 1115 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1315) with respect to the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.

S. CON. RES. 46

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 46, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that an appropriate site at the former Navy

Dive School at the Washington Navy Yard should be provided for the Man in the Sea Memorial Monument to honor the members of the Armed Forces who have served as divers and whose service in defense of the United States has been carried out beneath the waters of the world.

S. CON. RES. 50

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 50, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding actions to preserve and advance the multistakeholder governance model under which the Internet has thrived.

S. RES. 176

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 176, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States Postal Service should issue a semipostal stamp to support medical research relating to Alzheimer's disease.

S. RES. 181

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 181, a resolution designating May 15, 2011, as "National MPS Awareness Day".

S. RES. 232

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 232, a resolution recognizing the continued persecution of Falun Gong practitioners in China on the 12th anniversary of the campaign by the Chinese Communist Party to suppress the Falun Gong movement, recognizing the Tuidang movement whereby Chinese citizens renounce their ties to the Chinese Communist Party and its affiliates, and calling for an immediate end to the campaign to persecute Falun Gong practitioners.

S. RES. 434

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 434, a resolution supporting the goal of preventing and effectively treating Alzheimer's disease by the year 2025, as articulated in the draft National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease from the Department of Health and Human Services.

S. RES. 466

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, his name and the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 466, a resolution calling for the release from prison of former Prime Minister of Ukraine Yulia Tymoshenko.

S. RES. 543

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 543, a resolution to express the sense of the Senate on international parental child abduction.

S. RES. 556

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 556, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that foreign assistance funding to the Governments of Libya and Egypt should be suspended until the President certifies to Congress that both governments are providing proper security at United States embassies and consulates pursuant to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.

S. RES. 558

At the request of Mr. HELLER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 558, a resolution congratulating the athletes from the State of Nevada and throughout the United States who participated in the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games as members of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 3556. A bill to provide penalties for email marketing fraud; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

TELEMARKETING FRAUD MODERNIZATION ACT

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about an issue that is extremely important to people in Rhode Island and across the United States: protecting consumers and securing the integrity of Medicare by preventing waste and fraud. Individuals who commit Medicare fraud are not simply stealing from the government, they are stealing from the men and women who have paid into the system their whole lives, they are stealing from our Nation's seniors, and they are stealing from the taxpayers. We have an obligation to ensure that Medicare dollars are spent keeping seniors healthy, and not lining the pockets of predatory opportunists.

In March, I held a hearing in Rhode Island on efforts at the Federal, State, and local levels to identify and reduce fraud in Medicare and Medicaid. I heard testimony from a representative of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, as well as State and Federal law enforcement officials, including Rhode Island's Attorney General, Peter Kilmartin; and the U.S. Attorney for Rhode Island, Peter Neronha. They discussed a number of the efforts underway to identify potentially fraudulent claims, recover im-

proper payments, and use state-of-the-art analytic software to identify and prevent improper payments.

I was pleased to hear about the steps being taken to modernize Medicare's anti-fraud efforts, but there is still much that can be done. In particular, I believe we must crack down on deceptive and fraudulent telemarketing and email schemes that force unwanted and unnecessary medical equipment onto unsuspecting seniors. I have heard from Rhode Islanders concerned about these "too-good-to-be-true" offers. During my March hearing, I heard testimony about Medicare beneficiaries receiving unsolicited phone calls from a company called Planned Eldercare, which promised to provide them with free medical products. If a senior agreed to the offer, Planned Eldercare would submit as many claims as it could to Medicare on that beneficiary's behalf, even if the products for which they were submitting claims were not medically necessary or even requested by the senior. This scheme defrauded Medicare out of more than \$2.2 million.

These schemes prey on older Americans and rob Medicare of millions of dollars that would otherwise be used to improve the health and well-being of seniors. We must do more to prevent fraud of this kind, which is why I am joining with my colleague, Senator Blumenthal, in introducing the Telemarketing Fraud Modernization Act. This bill would close loopholes in the existing telemarketing fraud statute and update the law to include Medicare, Medicaid, and health care fraud, as well as schemes to fraudulently induce investments—like Ponzi schemes. It would also expand existing law to apply to schemes perpetrated via email, instant messages, and other forms of electronic communication. Updating the telemarketing fraud statute will give law enforcement agencies the tools they need to rein in scam artists, protect our Nation's seniors, and strengthen the integrity of the Medicare program.

I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle on this important issue.

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 3557. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to prohibit institutions of higher education that participate in programs under title IV of such Act from including predispute arbitration agreements in enrollment contracts; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about a bill I have just introduced, the Arbitration Fairness for Students Act, and to talk about why it is so important to protect our Nation's students.

Access to higher education is becoming increasingly important in our Nation. In 2018, 70 percent of the jobs in