At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1837, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes.

S. 2255

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2295, a bill to establish the National Commission on the Future of the Army, and for other purposes.

S. 2251

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2301, a bill to amend the charter school program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

S. J. RES. 19

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. J. Res. 19, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

S. RES. 421

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 421, a resolution expressing the gratitude and appreciation of the Senate for the acts of heroism and military achievement by the members of the United States Armed Forces who participated in the June 6, 1944, amphibious landing at Normandy, France, and commending them for leadership and valor in an operation that helped bring an end to World War II.

At the request of Mr. JOHANNS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 421, a resolution expressing the gratitude and appreciation of the Senate for the acts of heroism and military achievement by the members of the United States Armed Forces who participated in the June 6, 1944, amphibious landing at Normandy, France, and commending them for leadership and valor in an operation that helped bring an end to World War II.

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3008 intended to be proposed to S. 2262, a bill to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3008

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCAR, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKIS) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRIEST) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3041 intended to be proposed to S. 2262, a bill to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3041

At the request of Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KIRK, and Mrs. SHAHEEN), S. 2307. A bill to prevent international violence against women, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today with my colleagues, Senators BOXER, KIRK, MENENDEZ, and SHAHEEN, in introducing the International Violence Against Women Act of 2014. This bill makes ending violence against women and girls a top diplomatic priority. It would authorize the State Department’s Office of Global Women’s Issues and the position of the Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women’s Issues.

It requires the administration to develop and implement an annual strategy to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls for each of the next 5 years. This legislation will ensure that the efforts begun under President George W. Bush and continued by President Barack Obama to combat gender-based violence will be a priority for future administrations as well.

We have witnessed great strides in women’s equality in our own country and in much of the developed world over the past century. Across vast swaths of the globe, however, violence against women and forced marriages are everyday occurrences. One out of three women worldwide will, physically, sexually or otherwise abused during her lifetime, with rates reaching 70 percent in some countries.

This violence ranges from domestic violence to rape and acid burnings, to dowry deaths and so-called honor killings. Such violence is often exacerbated in humanitarian emergencies and conflict settings. Violence against women and girls is a human rights issue, a public health epidemic, and a barrier to solving global challenges such as extreme poverty, HIV/AIDS, and conflict.

The world has just seen an appalling example of women and girls being treated as property and bargaining chips in Nigeria and other countries, when a terrorist group Boko Haram kidnapped nearly 300 school girls and is threatening to sell them into sexual slavery and into forced marriages. Tragically, there are reports that some have already been sold into child marriage. Boko Haram’s leaders said the girls should get married and never be educated. He has said:
I will marry off a woman at the age of 12. I will marry off a girl at the age of 9.

In fact, the very name of this terrorist group roughly translates to the phrase “Western education is sinful.” Sadly, this is a viewpoint that is not just a terrorist position, but rather, it is a position that is pervasive throughout the world. Even today, in many countries, it is common for girls to be married off at a very young age, often as young as 12, in order to provide a dowry for their families. This practice is not just a violation of women’s rights, but it also perpetuates poverty and increased health risks, often leading to early marriage.

The International Violence Against Women Act ensures that our country will work with other countries to help prevent and appropriately respond to all forms of violence against women and girls, including honor killings and forced marriages. For example, our bill will support our State Department’s efforts in four areas. First, it will incentivize countries to adopt policies so that they did not depend on any one President or party to continue. We in Michigan are especially proud to be joined by Senator MANCHIN to support this important effort.

Second, our bill will increase efforts to build capacity programs to address violence against women and girls around the globe and to integrate and coordinate efforts to address gender-based violence into U.S. foreign policy and foreign assistance programs.

Specifically, our bill will foster efforts in four areas. First, it will increase legal and judicial protections by supporting legal and structural changes that prevent and appropriately respond to all forms of violence against women and girls, including honor killings and forced marriages. For example, our bill will support our State Department’s work with other countries to help those nations reform their legal systems by providing technical expertise and model laws and building the capacity of their police and judges.

Fourth, our bill will focus on reducing poverty. The practice of premarital pregnancy increases their health risks, and perpetuates poverty. The practice of preventing women from attaining their full potential by targeting them for violence and early marriage is still far too common in far too many countries around the world.

The Presidential Policy on Violence Against Women Act ensures that our country will take action to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls around the globe and to integrate and coordinate efforts to address gender-based violence into U.S. foreign policy and foreign assistance programs.

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The President’s foreign policy consensus. Truman and America understood the hard lesson of World War II: that a failure to engage would have a pact on the lives of women and girls. In addition, in the context of the human rights issue, such violence contributes to inequality and political instability, making it a security issue as well as a moral issue for all of us.

I am committed to working with my colleagues in Congress on this policy and foreign assistance programs. Specifically, our bill will foster efforts in four areas. First, it will increase legal and judicial protections by supporting laws and legal structures that prevent and appropriately respond to all forms of violence against women and girls, including honor killings and forced marriages. For example, our bill will support our State Department’s work with other countries to help those nations reform their legal systems by providing technical expertise and model laws and building the capacity of their police and judges.

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millions of American mothers whose essential role in all of our lives cannot be overstated.

The legislation I am introducing today would recognize Mother's Day by authorizing the Treasury to mint a commemorative Mother's Day coin. Profits generated from the sale of these coins would be donated to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and the National Osteoporosis Foundation. St. Jude Children's Research Hospital has advanced cures for catastrophic pediatric diseases through research and treatment; and the National Osteoporosis Foundation is considered our Nation's leading voluntary health organization.

In the U.S. alone, 10 million people have osteoporosis, and 80 percent of those who suffer from this disease are women. This legislation not only honors our nation's mothers, but also helps to raise funds to fight a serious disease that disproportionately impacts women. Of mothers and their children have benefited from the efforts of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and the National Osteoporosis Foundation, and they are well-deserving of our support. Therefore, I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation so that every mother in our country.

I can think of no better way to celebrate Mother's Day than by helping to promote the health of American mothers and their children.

By Mr. REED: S. 2312. A bill to amend titles 5, 10, and 32, United States Code, to eliminate inconsistencies in the treatment of National Guard technicians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I introduce the National Guard Technician Equity Act to address inconsistencies in the dual-status technician program. Over 48,000 National Guard dual-status technicians serve our nation. They are a distinct group of workers—as civilians, they work for the reserve components, performing administrative duties, providing training, and maintaining and repairing equipment. However, as a condition of their civilian position, they are also required to maintain military status—attending weekend drills and annual training, deploying overseas, and responding to domestic disasters and emergencies—thereby creating their "dual-status."

As a result, dual-status technicians are caught between the provisions that govern the Federal civilian workforce and the military in numerous ways. First, under existing law, a dual-status technician who is no longer fit for military duty must be fired from their technician position, even if they are still fully capable of performing their civilian duties. This bill would give these technicians the option of remaining in their civilian position if they have 20 years of service as a dual-status technician, so that the experience and skills of these dedicated employees will not be lost.

Second, dual-status technicians do not have the same appeal rights as most other Federal employees, including those civilians in other Department of Defense positions. Federal employment with the military is a collective bargaining agreement that gives the employees the right to file a grievance and proceed to arbitration, or file a case with the Merit Systems Protection Board, MSPB. Currently, dual-status technicians may appeal to the Adjutant General in their state, but not to any neutral third party. This bill would allow them to also appeal to the MSPB for grievances unrelated to their military service.

Third, most reserve component members are able to obtain health care coverage through the TRICARE Reserve Select program. However, dual-status technicians are ineligible, despite their mandatory military status and reserve service, because they can participate in the Federal Employee Health Benefit Program, FEHBP. 

The National Guard Technician Equity Act also allows technicians to receive overtime pay and requires the Secretary of Defense to report to Congress on the adequacy of leave time provided to Federal employees who are members of the National Guard for required military training.

I urge my colleagues to support and cosponsor the National Guard Technician Equity Act, and join me in pressing for inclusion of provisions of this bill in the National Defense Authorization Act.

Mr. BEGICH (for himself, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. COONS, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 441—RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF TEACHERS TO THE CIVIC, CULTURAL, AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BEGICH (for himself, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. COONS, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

(1) designates the week of May 1 through May 7, 2014, as 'National Physical Education and Sport Week';

(2) recognizes National Physical Education and Sport Week and the central role of physical education and sports in creating a healthy lifestyle for all children and youth; encourages schools to offer physical education classes to students and work with community partners to provide opportunities and safe spaces for physical activities before, after school and during the summer months for all children and youth.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3095. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him