

from the closest medical facility of the Department that furnishes the care sought by the veteran; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 3007. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security act to extend the application of the Medicare payment rate floor to primary care services furnished under Medicaid and to apply the rate floor to additional providers of primary services; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE:

S. 3008. A bill to extend temporarily the extended period of protection for members of uniformed services relating to mortgages, mortgage foreclosure, and eviction, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. Res. 599. A resolution recognizing the 100-year anniversary of Big Brothers Big Sisters Southeastern Pennsylvania; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 313

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 313, 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. 1445

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1445, 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. 1695

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1695, a bill to designate a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.

S. 2301

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2301, a bill to amend section 2259 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 2828

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2828, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation, to provide additional assistance to Ukraine, and for other purposes.

S. 2930

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2930, a bill to direct the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for the conduct of an evaluation of mental health care and suicide prevention programs of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, to require a pilot program on loan repayment for psychiatrists who agree to serve in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2941

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2941, a bill to combat human trafficking.

S. 2990

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2990, a bill to establish a State Trade and Export Promotion Grant Program.

S. RES. 595

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 595, a resolution recognizing Nobel Laureates Kailash Satyarthi and Malala Yousafzai for their efforts to end the financial exploitation of children and to ensure the right of all children to an education.

S. RES. 597

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 597, a resolution commemorating and supporting the goals of World AIDS day.

AMENDMENT NO. 4091

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4091 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3979, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. COBURN:

S. 3003. A bill to protect the Social Security Disability Insurance program and provide other support for working disabled Americans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, as a father, grandfather, and doctor, there are few issues that are more important to

me than making sure Social Security benefits are protected for both current and future generations. While both the Social Security Disability Insurance program and the Social Security Insurance program will be exhausted during my kids' lifetime, the disability program's finances are particularly dire.

Since 2005, the disability trust fund has paid out more in benefits each year than taxpayers pay back in. Last year alone the shortfall was \$32 billion. As a result, the trust fund will run out of money by 2016, after which the Social Security Administration, the "Agency," will only be able to pay 81 percent of disability benefits to the 11 million Americans currently dependent on them. This outcome is unacceptable.

Faced with the impending insolvency of the disability program, politicians have debated the principal causes of the trust fund's rapidly expanding shortfall. Some argue the program does not need reform, believing that the increase in the disability rolls is due to factors beyond our control. Citing aging baby-boomers and the rise of women in the workplace, opponents of reform argue that dramatically rising disability spending was and is unavoidable.

That is simply wrong. Since 1989, the percentage of working-age Americans receiving disability benefits has more than doubled, while the percentage of Americans reporting a work limitation has remained fairly stable. A paper published by the Center for American Progress and the Brookings Institution noted that even among middle-aged men, the fraction receiving disability benefits has risen by 45 percent since 1988.

A significant driver of the program's increased cost is fraud, waste, and abuse. Over the past 4 years, the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the "committee", and the U.S. Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, the "subcommittee" have conducted several bipartisan investigations into aspects of the Agency's disability programs and uncovered significant problems with the program that Congress and the Agency need to correct.

In 2012, the subcommittee looked at a random sample of 300 disability cases and found that one-quarter of the decisions made by the Agency were not supported by the medical record. Much of this was the result of the Agency's poor supervision of its 1,500 Administrative Law Judges "ALJs". This was not just the subcommittee's judgment; the Agency agreed. After conducting its own study, SSA similarly found that 23 percent of ALJ decisions nationally were not supported by the record.

In 2013, the Committee issued a report showing how the disability programs could be gamed by attorneys, doctors, and ALJs. The report detailed how attorney Eric C. Conn, ALJ David