

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 216. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a Future-Years Veterans Program and a quadrennial veterans review, to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a Chief Strategy Officer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

Special Report entitled "History, Jurisdiction, and a Summary of Activities of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources during the 113th Congress" (Rept. No. 114-6).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. THUNE for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

*Patricia D. Cahill, of Missouri, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a term expiring January 31, 2020.

*Dava J. Newman, of Massachusetts, to be Deputy Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

*Willie E. May, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology.

*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.

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 Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MARKEY, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 857. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of an initial comprehensive care plan for Medicare beneficiaries newly diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 858. A bill to amend the National Energy Conservation Policy Act to encourage the increased use of performance contracting in Federal facilities; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

S. 859. A bill to protect the public, communities across America, and the environment by increasing the safety of crude oil transportation by railroad, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. VITTER, Mr. COATS, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. HELLER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. ENZI, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. MORAN, Mr. LEE, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. KIRK, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. HOEVEN, and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 860. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the estate and generation-skipping transfer taxes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. ENZI, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. COONS, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. COTTON, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. MANCHIN, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. THUNE, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 861. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to curb waste, fraud, and abuse in the Medicare and Medicaid programs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. REED, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. UDALL, Mr. REID, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CASEY, Mr. NELSON, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 862. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 863. A bill to reauthorize and improve the Appalachian regional development program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 864. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish direct care registered nurse-to-patient staffing ratio requirements in hospitals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. 865. 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 mental health conditions related to military sexual trauma, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 866. A bill to accelerate the income tax benefits for charitable cash contributions for the relief of the families of New York Police Department Detectives Wenjian Liu and Rafael Ramos, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 867. A bill to improve student academic achievement in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics subjects; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

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

S. Res. 111. A resolution designating March 2015 as "National Middle Level Education Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Ms. AYOTTE):

S. Res. 112. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the Internal Revenue Service should provide printed copies of Internal Revenue Service Publication 17 to taxpayers in the United States free of charge; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. Res. 113. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee should recommend the issuance of, and the United States Postal Service should issue, a commemorative stamp in honor of the holiday of Diwali; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. Res. 114. A resolution supporting the designation of March 2015, as "National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SESSIONS (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. Res. 115. A resolution designating April 2015 as "National Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness Month"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 125

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 125, a bill to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the authorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2020, and for other purposes.

S. 207

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 207, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to use existing authorities to furnish health care at non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities to veterans who live more than 40 miles driving distance from the closest medical facility of the Department that furnishes the care sought by the veteran, and for other purposes.

S. 303

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 303, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that individuals having seriously delinquent tax debts shall be ineligible for Federal employment.

S. 366

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island

(Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 366, a bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

S. 423

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 423, a bill to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception to the annual written privacy notice requirement.

S. 488

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 488, 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. 605

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 605, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to invest in innovation for education.

S. 626

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 626, 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, to amend title XVIII of such Act to modify the requirements for diabetic shoes to be included under Medicare, and for other purposes.

S. 665

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 665, a bill to encourage, enhance, and integrate Blue Alert plans throughout the United States in order to disseminate information when a law enforcement officer is seriously injured or killed in the line of duty, is missing in connection with the officer's official duties, or an imminent and credible threat that an individual intends to cause the serious injury or death of a law enforcement officer is received, and for other purposes.

S. 756

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 756, a bill to require a report on accountability for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Syria.

S. 758

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 758, a bill to establish an Inter-

agency Trade Enforcement Center in the Office of the United States Trade Representative, and for other purposes.

S. 793

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 793, 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. CON. RES. 4

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 4, a concurrent resolution supporting the Local Radio Freedom Act.

S. CON. RES. 10

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 10, a concurrent resolution supporting the designation of the year of 2015 as the "International Year of Soils" and supporting locally led soil conservation.

AMENDMENT NO. 339

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 339 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 345

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 345 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 346

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 346 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 347

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Nebraska

(Mr. SASSE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 347 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 351

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 351 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 352

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 352 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 356

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 356 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 382

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 382 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 383

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 383 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 384

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 384 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 388

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 388 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 391

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 391 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 427

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. McCASKILL), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 427 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 432

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 432 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 434

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 434 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 435

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 435 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original

concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 452

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 452 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 457

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 457 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 467

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 467 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 468

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 468 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 469

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 469 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 473

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 473 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 484

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 484 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 485

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 485 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 490

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 490 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 491

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 491 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 522

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 522 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 545

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 545 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 553

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 553 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the

United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 573

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 573 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 580

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 580 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 585

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 585 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 600

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 600 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 601

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 601 proposed to S. Con. Res. 11, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 111—DESIGNATING MARCH 2015 AS “NATIONAL MIDDLE LEVEL EDUCATION MONTH”

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 111

Whereas the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the Association

for Middle Level Education, the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform, and the National Association of Elementary School Principals have declared March 2015 as “National Middle Level Education Month”;

Whereas schools that educate middle level students are responsible for educating nearly 24,000,000 young adolescents between the ages of 10 and 15, in grades 5 through 9, who are undergoing rapid and dramatic changes in their physical, intellectual, social, emotional, and moral development;

Whereas young adolescents deserve challenging and engaging instruction and knowledgeable teachers and administrators who are prepared to provide young adolescents with a safe, challenging, and supportive learning environment;

Whereas young adolescents deserve organizational structures that banish anonymity and promote personalization, collaboration, and social equity;

Whereas the habits and values established during early adolescence have a lifelong influence that directly affects the future health and welfare of the United States;

Whereas research indicates that the academic achievement of a student in grade 8 has a larger impact on the readiness of that student for an institution of higher education at the end of high school than any academic achievement of that student in high school; and

Whereas in order to improve graduation rates and prepare students to be lifelong learners who are ready for an institution of higher education or a career and civic participation, the people of the United States must have a deeper understanding of the distinctive mission of middle level education: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 2015 as “National Middle Level Education Month”;

(2) honors and recognizes the importance of middle level education and the contributions of the individuals who educate middle level students; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Middle Level Education Month by visiting and celebrating schools that are responsible for educating young adolescents in the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 112—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE SHOULD PROVIDE PRINTED COPIES OF INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE PUBLICATION 17 TO TAXPAYERS IN THE UNITED STATES FREE OF CHARGE

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Ms. AYOTTE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

S. RES. 112

Whereas each year, Internal Revenue Service Publication 17, entitled “Your Federal Income Tax”, provides individuals with general instructions on how to file their taxes for the previous taxable year;

Whereas in each year prior to 2015, free printed versions of Internal Revenue Service Publication 17 were made widely available to taxpayers at libraries, post offices, and taxpayer service offices, and even by mail at the request of a taxpayer;

Whereas in an effort to save money, the Internal Revenue Service no longer disseminates a free printed version of Internal Revenue Service Publication 17 as it transitions

to a fully electronic tax filing system, including an electronic system for providing instructions on filing taxes;

Whereas the Internal Revenue Service directs taxpayers to the Internet to download an electronic version of Internal Revenue Service Publication 17, even though the limited availability of a printed version of this publication burdens individuals who do not have access to a computer or printer and individuals who struggle to navigate a computer;

Whereas the dissemination of printed copies of Internal Revenue Service Publication 17 is a basic taxpayer service that the Internal Revenue Service is ignoring in an effort to reduce spending;

Whereas the Internal Revenue Service has experienced budget cuts for 5 consecutive fiscal years, amounting to a reduction in its budget of \$1,200,000,000, or 10 percent, since fiscal year 2010;

Whereas the Internal Revenue Service should prioritize its resources on areas that are critical to the ability of taxpayers to file their taxes in a timely and proper manner; and

Whereas the decision of the Internal Revenue Service to stop disseminating printed copies of Internal Revenue Service Publication 17 adversely impacts populations that do not have access to, or understand how to use, a computer, and the decision unnecessarily burdens and restricts the ability of taxpayers to comply with the convoluted and complicated provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate urges the Internal Revenue Service to—

(1) resume printing copies of Internal Revenue Service Publication 17; and

(2) provide free copies of such publication to the taxpayers of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 113—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE CITIZENS’ STAMP ADVISORY COMMITTEE SHOULD RECOMMEND THE ISSUANCE OF, AND THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE SHOULD ISSUE, A COMMEMORATIVE STAMP IN HONOR OF THE HOLIDAY OF DIWALI

Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

S. RES. 113

Whereas Diwali, also referred to as the “festival of lights”, is an Indian holiday that marks the beginning of the Hindu New Year;

Whereas Diwali celebrates the triumph of good over evil, the awareness of one’s inner light, the dispelling of ignorance, and bringing peace and joy through the awakening gained from a higher knowledge;

Whereas Diwali is observed in the United States, and across the globe, by Hindus, Sikhs, Christians, Jains, and Buddhists;

Whereas as one of the world’s oldest religious holidays, Diwali serves not only as a time for celebration, but also as a time for communities and families to come together in spiritual enlightenment;

Whereas the practice of celebrating Diwali has survived political, economic, and social changes throughout history, while always carrying the universal symbolism of the victory of light, goodness, knowledge, and truth;

Whereas the United States Postal Service, in accordance with recommendations of the