

other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. BENNET, Mr. PAUL, Mr. WYDEN, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 1726. A bill to create protections for depository institutions that provide financial services to marijuana-related businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 1727. A bill to rename the National Florence Crittenton Mission; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COATS:

S. 1728. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide equal access to declaratory judgments for organizations seeking tax-exempt status; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 1729. A bill to amend the State report card provisions of section 1111(h) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to require the disaggregation of the educational outcomes of students with disabilities by disability category; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 1730. A bill to enhance civil penalties under the Federal securities laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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

S. 1731. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to waive the minimum period of continuous active duty in the Armed Forces for receipt of certain benefits for homeless veterans, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish such benefits to homeless veterans with discharges or releases from service in the Armed Forces with other than dishonorable conditions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. MORAN):

S. 1732. A bill to authorize elements of the Department of Transportation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 1733. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a forest incentives program to keep forests intact and sequester carbon on private forest land of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. KIRK:

S. 1734. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to waive the state of good repair certification requirement for participants in the pilot program for expedited project delivery; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. NELSON (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 1735. A bill to modernize the Undetectable Firearms Act of 1988; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COONS, Mr. KING, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. REED):

S. 1736. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an invest-

ment tax credit related to the production of electricity from offshore wind; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. UDALL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. REED, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. PETERS):

S. 1737. A bill to provide an incentive for businesses to bring jobs back to America; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 1738. A bill to protect individuals by strengthening the Nation's mental health infrastructure, improving the understanding of violence, strengthening firearm prohibitions and protections for at-risk individuals, and improving and expanding the reporting of mental health records to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 1739. A bill to increase the minimum levels of financial responsibility for transporting property, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. NELSON, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. CASEY, Mr. WARNER, Mr. REID, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. COONS, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. REED, Mr. KAINE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. DONNELLY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. UDALL, Mr. KING, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 1740. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify that all provisions shall apply to legally married same-sex couples in the same manner as other married couples, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 1741. A bill to establish tire fuel efficiency minimum performance standards, improve tire registration, help consumers identify recalled tires, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself, Mr. TESTER, Mrs. MCCASKILL, and Mr. PETERS):

S. 1742. A bill to improve the provision of postal services to rural areas of the United States; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. NELSON (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 1743. A bill to provide greater transparency, accountability, and safety authority to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PERDUE (for himself and Mr. ISAkson):

S. 1744. A bill to authorize the sale of certain National Forest System land in the State of Georgia; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. TESTER:

S. 1745. A bill to provide grants to eligible entities to develop and maintain or improve and expand before school, afterschool, and summer school programs for Indian and

Alaska Native students, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. KAINE):

S. 1746. A bill to require the Office of Personnel Management to provide complimentary, comprehensive identity protection coverage to all individuals whose personally identifiable information was compromised during recent data breaches at Federal agencies; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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

S. 1747. A bill to improve the enforcement of sanctions against the Government of North Korea, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 1748. A bill to provide for improved investment in national transportation infrastructure; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DONNELLY (for himself, Ms. HEITKAMP, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S.J. Res. 18. A joint resolution proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RISCH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. TESTER, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. Res. 219. A resolution designating July 25, 2015, as "National Day of the American Cowboy"; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. Res. 220. A resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Medora Musical; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself, Mr. BENNET, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. Res. 221. A resolution recognizing the 100th anniversary of Rocky Mountain National Park; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 37

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 37, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide for State accountability in the provision of access to the core resources for learning, and for other purposes.

S. 139

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 139, a bill to permanently allow an exclusion under the Supplemental Security Income program and the Medicaid program for compensation provided to individuals who participate in clinical trials for rare diseases or conditions.

S. 183

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs.

ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 183, a bill to repeal the annual fee on health insurance providers enacted by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. 210

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 210, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for amounts paid by a spouse of a member of the Armed Forces for a new State license or certification required by reason of a permanent change in the duty station of such member to another State.

S. 313

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 313, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to add physical therapists to the list of providers allowed to utilize locum tenens arrangements under Medicare.

S. 357

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 357, a bill to amend title 11 of the United States Code to require the public disclosure by trusts established under section 524(g) of such title, of quarterly reports that contain detailed information regarding the receipt and disposition of claims for injuries based on exposure to asbestos, and for other purposes.

S. 439

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 439, a bill to end discrimination based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity in public schools, and for other purposes.

S. 471

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 471, a bill to improve the provision of health care for women veterans by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 571

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 571, a bill to amend the Pilot's Bill of Rights to facilitate appeals and to apply to other certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, to require the revision of the third class medical certification regulations issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 681

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 681, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vi-

cinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

S. 697

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 697, a bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to reauthorize and modernize that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 743

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 743, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to recognize the service in the reserve components of the Armed Forces of certain persons by honoring them with status as veterans under law, and for other purposes.

S. 746

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 746, a bill to provide for the establishment of a Commission to Accelerate the End of Breast Cancer.

S. 884

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 884, a bill to improve access to emergency medical services, and for other purposes.

S. 979

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 979, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 1038

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1038, a bill to clarify that no express or implied warranty is provided by reason of a disclosure relating to voluntary participation in the Energy Star program, and for other purposes.

S. 1085

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1085, a bill to expand eligibility for the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to expand benefits available to participants under such program, to enhance special compensation for members of the uniformed services who require assistance in everyday life, and for other purposes.

S. 1090

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr.

ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1090, a bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide eligibility for broadcasting facilities to receive certain disaster assistance, and for other purposes.

S. 1182

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1182, a bill to exempt application of JSA attribution rule in case of existing agreements.

S. 1190

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1190, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure equal access of Medicare beneficiaries to community pharmacies in underserved areas as network pharmacies under Medicare prescription drug coverage, and for other purposes.

S. 1300

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1300, a bill to amend the section 221 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide relief for adoptive families from immigrant visa fees in certain situations.

S. 1333

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1333, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to exclude cannabidiol and cannabidiol-rich plants from the definition of marijuana, and for other purposes.

S. 1458

At the request of Mr. COATS, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. 1458, a bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to ensure scientific transparency in the development of environmental regulations and for other purposes.

S. 1461

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1461, a bill to provide for the extension of the enforcement instruction on supervision requirements for outpatient therapeutic services in critical access and small rural hospitals through 2015.

S. 1495

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1495, a bill to curtail the use of changes in mandatory programs affecting the Crime Victims Fund to inflate spending.

S. 1509

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the names of the Senator from Minnesota

(Mr. FRANKEN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 1509, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coordination of programs to prevent and treat obesity, and for other purposes.

S. 1540

At the request of Mrs. McCASKILL, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1540, a bill to improve the enforcement of prohibitions on robocalls, including fraudulent robocalls.

S. 1544

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1544, a bill to rescind unused earmarks provided for the Department of Transportation, and for other purposes.

S. 1584

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1584, a bill to repeal the renewable fuel standard.

S. 1598

At the request of Mr. LEE, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1598, a bill to prevent discriminatory treatment of any person on the basis of views held with respect to marriage.

S. 1670

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1670, a bill to amend the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 to authorize appropriations to provide assistance for domestic and foreign programs and centers for the treatment of victims of torture, and for other purposes.

S. 1672

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1672, a bill to authorize States to enter into interstate compacts regarding Class A commercial driver's licenses.

S. 1714

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1714, a bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to transfer certain funds to the Multiemployer Health Benefit Plan and the 1974 United Mine Workers of America Pension Plan, and for other purposes.

S. 1716

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr.

MERKLEY) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1716, a bill to provide access to higher education for the students of the United States.

S. 1717

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1717, a bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to exempt old vessels that only operate within inland waterways from the fire-retardant materials requirement if the owners of such vessels make annual structural alterations to at least 10 percent of the areas of the vessels that are not constructed of fire-retardant materials.

S. RES. 211

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 211, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding Srebrenica.

AMENDMENT NO. 2093

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2093 proposed to S. 1177, an original bill to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to ensure that every child achieves.

AMENDMENT NO. 2094

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. McCONNELL), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2094 proposed to S. 1177, an original bill to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to ensure that every child achieves.

AMENDMENT NO. 2096

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2096 proposed to S. 1177, an original bill to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to ensure that every child achieves.

AMENDMENT NO. 2110

At the request of Mr. SASSE, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2110 proposed to S. 1177, an original bill to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to ensure that every child achieves.

AMENDMENT NO. 2133

At the request of Mr. SCOTT, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2133 intended to

be proposed to S. 1177, an original bill to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to ensure that every child achieves.

AMENDMENT NO. 2135

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2135 intended to be proposed to S. 1177, an original bill to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to ensure that every child achieves.

AMENDMENT NO. 2151

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2151 intended to be proposed to S. 1177, an original bill to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to ensure that every child achieves.

AMENDMENT NO. 2152

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2152 intended to be proposed to S. 1177, an original bill to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to ensure that every child achieves.

AMENDMENT NO. 2159

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2159 intended to be proposed to S. 1177, an original bill to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to ensure that every child achieves.

AMENDMENT NO. 2166

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2166 intended to be proposed to S. 1177, an original bill to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to ensure that every child achieves.

AMENDMENT NO. 2167

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2167 intended to be proposed to S. 1177, an original bill to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to ensure that every child achieves.

AMENDMENT NO. 2169

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2169 intended to be proposed to S. 1177, an original bill to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of

1965 to ensure that every child achieves.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 1730. A bill to enhance civil penalties under the Federal securities laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, the Stronger Enforcement of Civil Penalties Act, which I am pleased to be introducing today with Senator GRASSLEY and Senator LEAHY, will enhance the ability of securities regulators to protect investors and demand greater accountability from market players. Unfortunately, even after the financial crisis that crippled the economy, we continue to see calculated wrongdoing by some on Wall Street. Without the consequence of meaningful penalties to serve as an effective deterrent, I fear this disturbing culture of misconduct will persist.

The existing regime for securities law violations limits by statute the amount of penalties the Securities and Exchange Commission, SEC, can fine an institution or individual. During hearings I held in 2011 in the Securities, Insurance, and Investment Banking Subcommittee, I learned how this limitation significantly interferes with the SEC's ability to perform its enforcement duties. At that time, the agency had been criticized by a Federal judge for not obtaining a larger settlement against Citigroup, a major player in the financial crisis that settled with the SEC in an amount that was a fraction of the cost the bank had inflicted on investors. The SEC explained that the reason for the low settlement amount was a statutory prohibition from levying a larger penalty.

The bipartisan bill Senator GRASSLEY and I are introducing updates and strengthens the SEC's civil penalties statute. It aims to make potential and current offenders think twice before engaging in misconduct by increasing the maximum civil monetary penalties permitted by statute, directly linking the size of the maximum penalties to the amount of losses suffered by victims of a violation, and substantially raising the financial stakes for repeat offenders of our nation's securities laws.

Specifically, our bill would give the SEC more options to tailor penalties to the specific circumstances of a given violation. In addition to raising the per violation caps for severe, or "tier three," violations to \$1 million per offense for individuals and \$10 million per offense for entities, the bill would also give the SEC additional options to obtain greater penalties based on the ill-gotten gains of the violator or on the financial harm to investors.

Our bill also addresses the disconcerting trend of repeat offenders on

Wall Street through two provisions. The first would allow the SEC to triple the penalty cap applicable to recidivists who have been held either criminally or civilly liable for securities fraud within the preceding five years. The second would allow the SEC to seek a civil penalty against those that violate existing federal court or SEC orders, an approach that would be more efficient, effective, and flexible than the current civil contempt remedy. These two changes would substantially improve the ability of the SEC's enforcement program to ratchet up penalties for recidivists.

More than half of all U.S. households own securities. They deserve a strong cop on the beat that has the tools it needs to go after fraudsters and pursue the difficult cases arising from our increasingly complex financial markets. The Stronger Enforcement of Civil Penalties Act will give the SEC more tools to demand meaningful accountability from Wall Street, which in turn will increase transparency and confidence in our financial system. I urge our colleagues to support this important bipartisan legislation to enhance the SEC's ability to protect investors and crack down on fraud.

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

S. 1731. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to waive the minimum period of continuous active duty in the Armed Forces for receipt of certain benefits for homeless veterans, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish such benefits to homeless veterans with discharges or releases from service in the Armed Forces with other than dishonorable conditions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Homeless Veterans Services Protection Act of 2015.

This legislation would ensure continued access to homeless services for some of our country's most vulnerable veterans who are currently at risk of losing these critical services.

The administration set the difficult but commendable goal of eliminating veteran homelessness. Through tremendous efforts at every level of government, and with the help of community groups, non-profits and the private sector, we have made major progress toward achieving that goal.

But we know we have a lot of work to do. Veterans are at greater risk of becoming homeless than non-veterans and on any given night as many as 50,000 veterans are homeless across the United States.

This is unacceptable.

Our veterans made great sacrifices while serving our country and our commitment to them is especially important. This commitment includes providing benefits, medical care, support, and assistance to prevent homelessness.

Two of our greatest tools are the Department of Veterans Affairs' Grant

and Per Diem program and the Supportive Services for Veteran Families program through partnerships with homeless service providers around the country.

These important and successful programs assist very low-income veterans and their families who either live in permanent housing or are transitioning from homelessness. The programs help our veterans with rent, utilities, moving costs, outreach, case management, and obtaining benefits.

But last year, after a legal review of its policies, VA was forced to prepare for a change that would have cut off services to veterans who did not meet certain length of service or discharge requirements, changing policies that homeless service providers had followed for decades.

That would be a heartless, bureaucratic move that could have put thousands of veterans on the streets—practically overnight. According to some of our leading veterans and homeless groups—including The American Legion, the National Alliance to End Homelessness the National Low Income Housing Coalition, and the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans—had the policy been enacted, VA would have had to stop serving about 15 percent of the homeless veteran population, and in certain urban areas up to 30 percent of homeless veterans would have been turned away.

The veterans community alerted me to this possible change—and while I am proud that we prevented these changes in the short-term—it is very concerning that a legal opinion could be issued at any time to undo all of that.

There is good reason to reverse this policy for good. A report from VA's Inspector General, issued just last week, shows how VA's unclear or outdated guidance hurts veterans, and how VA's proposed policy changes work against efforts to help homeless veterans.

As a senior member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee and the daughter of a World War II veteran, I'm proud that the bill I have introduced today would permanently protect homeless veterans' access to housing and services.

This bill makes it clear that our country takes care of those who have served, and we don't allow bureaucracy to dictate who gets a roof over their head and who doesn't.

Many veterans struggle with mental illness, substance abuse, or simply finding a steady job—all factors that can lead to homelessness.

And veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are increasingly becoming homeless—numbers that will continue to increase in the coming years unless help is available for them.

The idea that any of these veterans returning from service could become homeless because of these policies is unacceptable.

If we ever hope to end veteran homelessness we must do everything we can to reach this goal, and I want to make