

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SANDERS, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 2420. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to modify the exception to the work requirement; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 2421. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Tanana Tribal Council located in Tanana, Alaska, and to the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation located in Dillingham, Alaska, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. Res. 337. A resolution expressing support for the designation of February 12, 2016, as "Darwin Day" and recognizing the importance of science in the betterment of humanity; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 50

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 50, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to prohibit certain abortion-related discrimination in governmental activities.

S. 551

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 551, a bill to increase public safety by permitting the Attorney General to deny the transfer of firearms or the issuance of firearms and explosives licenses to known or suspected dangerous terrorists.

S. 678

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 678, a bill to declare English as the official language of the United States, to establish a uniform English language rule for naturalization, and to avoid misconstructions of the English language texts of the laws of the United States, pursuant to Congress' powers to provide for the general welfare of the United States and to establish a uniform rule of naturalization under article I, section 8, of the Constitution.

S. 706

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 706, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require institutions of higher education to have an independent advocate for campus sexual assault prevention and response.

S. 779

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut

(Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 779, a bill to provide for Federal agencies to develop public access policies relating to research conducted by employees of that agency or from funds administered by that agency.

S. 804

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 804, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to specify coverage of continuous glucose monitoring devices, and for other purposes.

S. 1141

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1141, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for small businesses.

S. 1169

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1169, a bill to reauthorize and improve the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, and for other purposes.

S. 1455

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1455, a bill to provide access to medication-assisted therapy, and for other purposes.

S. 1559

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1559, a bill to protect victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence from emotional and psychological trauma caused by acts of violence or threats of violence against their pets.

S. 1697

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1697, a bill to provide an exception from certain group health plan requirements to allow small businesses to use pre-tax dollars to assist employees in the purchase of policies in the individual health insurance market, and for other purposes.

S. 1849

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1849, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a Medicare payment option for patients and eligible professionals to freely contract, without penalty, for Medicare fee-for-service items and services, while allowing Medicare beneficiaries to use their Medicare benefits.

S. 1867

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1867, a bill to protect children from exploitation by providing advance notice of intended travel by registered sex offenders outside the United States to

the government of the country of destination, requesting foreign governments to notify the United States when a known sex offender is seeking to enter the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2067

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2067, a bill to establish EUREKA Prize Competitions to accelerate discovery and development of disease-modifying, preventive, or curative treatments for Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, to encourage efforts to enhance detection and diagnosis of such diseases, or to enhance the quality and efficiency of care of individuals with such diseases.

S. 2152

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2152, a bill to establish a comprehensive United States Government policy to encourage the efforts of countries in sub-Saharan Africa to develop an appropriate mix of power solutions, including renewable energy, for more broadly distributed electricity access in order to support poverty reduction, promote development outcomes, and drive economic growth, and for other purposes.

S. 2200

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2200, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to strengthen equal pay requirements.

S. 2201

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2201, a bill to promote international trade, and for other purposes.

S. 2291

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2291, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish procedures within the Department of Veterans Affairs for the processing of whistleblower complaints, and for other purposes.

S. 2373

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2373, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of certain lymphedema compression treatment items as items of durable medical equipment.

S. 2407

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2407, a bill to posthumously award the Congressional

Gold Medal to each of J. Christopher Stevens, Glen Doherty, Tyrone Woods, and Sean Smith in recognition of their contributions to the Nation.

S. 2409

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2409, a bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to improve payments for hospital outpatient department services and complex rehabilitation technology and to improve program integrity, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 25

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 25, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the final rule of the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone".

S. RES. 327

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 327, a resolution condemning violence that targets healthcare for women.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REED (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2410. A bill to promote transparency in the oversight of cybersecurity risks at publicly traded companies; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am pleased to be introducing the Cybersecurity Disclosure Act of 2015 with Senator COLLINS. In response to data breaches by various companies, which exposed the personal information of millions of customers, this bill asks each publicly traded company to include, in Securities and Exchange Commission, SEC, disclosures to investors, information on whether any member of the Board of Directors is a cybersecurity expert, and if not, why having this expertise on the Board of Directors is not necessary because of other cybersecurity steps taken by the publicly traded company. The legislation does not require companies to take any actions other than to provide this disclosure to its investors.

Many investors may be surprised to learn that board directors who participated in National Association of Corporate Directors roundtable discussions on cybersecurity late in 2013 admitted that "the lack of adequate knowledge of information technology risk has made it challenging for them to 'effectively oversee management's cybersecurity activities.' Participating board members also suggested that

'without sound knowledge of—or adequate sensitivity to—the topic, directors cannot easily draw the line between oversight and management,' and that once in the technical 'weeds,' directors 'find it difficult to assess the appropriate level of [the board's] involvement in risk management.'"

Investors and customers deserve a clear understanding of whether publicly traded companies are not only prioritizing cybersecurity, but also have the capacity to protect investors and customers from cyber related attacks. This bill aims to provide a better understanding of these issues through improved SEC disclosure.

While this legislation is a matter for consideration by the Banking Committee, of which I am a member, this bill is also informed by my service on the Armed Services Committee. It is through this dual Banking-Armed Services perspective that I see that our economic security is indeed a matter of our national security, and this is particularly the case as our economy becomes increasingly reliant on technology and the Internet.

For example, James Clapper, Director of National Intelligence, recently appeared before the Armed Services Committee on September 29, 2015, and testified that "cyber threats to the U.S. national and economic security are increasing in frequency, scale, sophistication and severity of impact." He further said that "[b]ecause of our heavy dependence on the Internet, nearly all information communication technologies and I.T. networks and systems will be perpetually at risk."

With mounting cyber threats and concerns over the capabilities of corporate directors, we all need to be more proactive in ensuring our Nation's cybersecurity before there are additional serious breaches. This legislation seeks to take one step towards that goal by encouraging publicly traded companies to be more transparent to its investors and customers on whether and how their Boards of Directors are prioritizing cybersecurity.

I thank Harvard Law School Professor John Coates, MIT Professor Simon Johnson, Columbia Law School Professor John Coffee, and the Consumer Federation of America for their support, and I urge my colleagues to join Senator COLLINS and me in supporting this legislation.

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

S. 2419. A bill to improve quality and accountability for educator preparation programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, we know that the quality of teachers and principals are two of the most important in-school factors related to student achievement. If we want to improve our schools, it is essential that teachers, principals, and other educators have a comprehensive system that sup-

ports their professional growth and development, starting on day one and continuing throughout their careers. Senator CASEY and I introduced the Better Education Support and Training Act to create such a system, and many key provisions of this legislation were included in the Every Student Succeeds Act that passed the Senate with an overwhelming bipartisan vote and was signed into law last week.

However, our work is not done. We need to make sure that educator preparation programs help teachers, principals, librarians, and other school leaders develop the skills and knowledge to be profession-ready. There is a looming shortage of fully-prepared teachers. Earlier this month, the Washington Post reported that many high poverty schools struggle to fill their teaching positions and rely on a "rotating cast of substitutes." We must do better by our students and our schools.

Today, I am reintroducing the Educator Preparation Reform Act and am pleased to be joined by Senator CASEY in offering this approach to improving how we prepare teachers, principals, and other educators so that they can be effective right from the start.

The Educator Preparation Reform Act builds on the success of the Teacher Quality Partnership Program, which I helped author in the 1998 reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

Among the key changes this new bill makes is specific attention and emphasis on principals, with the addition of a residency program for new principals. Improving instruction is a team effort, with principals at the helm. This bill better connects teacher preparation with principal preparation. The Educator Preparation Reform Act will also allow partnerships to develop preparation programs for other areas of instructional need, such as for school librarians, counselors, or other academic support professionals.

The bill streamlines the accountability and reporting requirements for teacher preparation programs to provide greater transparency on key quality measures such as admissions standards, requirements for clinical practice, placement of graduates, retention in the field of teaching, and teacher performance, including student learning outcomes. All programs—whether traditional or alternative routes to certification—will be asked to report on the same measures.

Under our legislation, states will be required to identify at-risk and low-performing programs and provide them with technical assistance and a timeline for improvement. States would be encouraged to close programs that do not improve.

We have been fortunate to work with many stakeholders on this legislation. Organizations that have endorsed the Educator Preparation Reform Act include: the Alliance for Excellent Education, American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, American