

protections for whistleblowers at the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

S. 2484

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2484, a bill to amend titles XVIII and XI of the Social Security Act to promote cost savings and quality care under the Medicare program through the use of telehealth and remote patient monitoring services, and for other purposes.

S. 2736

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2736, a bill to improve access to durable medical equipment for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 3034

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3034, a bill to prohibit the National Telecommunications and Information Administration from allowing the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority functions contract to lapse unless specifically authorized to do so by an Act of Congress.

S. 3039

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3039, a bill to support programs for mosquito-borne and other vector-borne disease surveillance and control.

S. 3053

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3053, a bill to prevent a person who has been convicted of a misdemeanor hate crime, or received an enhanced sentence for a misdemeanor because of hate or bias in its commission, from obtaining a firearm.

S.J. RES. 35

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 35, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the final rule of the Department of Labor relating to "Interpretation of the 'Advice' Exemption in Section 203(c) of the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act".

S. CON. RES. 35

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 35, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should continue to exercise its veto in the United Nations Security Council on resolutions regarding the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

S. RES. 373

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 373, a resolution recognizing the historical significance of Executive Order 9066 and expressing the sense of the Senate that policies that discriminate against any individual based on the actual or perceived race, ethnicity, national origin, or religion of that individual would be a repetition of the mistakes of Executive Order 9066 and contrary to the values of the United States.

S. RES. 482

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 482, a resolution urging the European Union to designate Hizballah in its entirety as a terrorist organization and to increase pressure on the organization and its members to the fullest extent possible.

S. RES. 483

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 483, a resolution designating June 20, 2016, as "American Eagle Day" and celebrating the recovery and restoration of the bald eagle, the national symbol of the United States.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. VITTER, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. COONS):

S. 3060. A bill to provide an exception from certain group health plan requirements for qualified small employer health reimbursement arrangements; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, for much of this Congress, I have been working on a bipartisan basis to correct a little understood provision in the Affordable Care Act, ACA, that punishes small businesses for attempting to help their employees purchase individual insurance.

That is right, this provision actually punishes businesses that want to do the right thing and help their employees obtain health insurance coverage.

This is a result of so-called market reforms in the ACA, which based on IRS guidance generally prohibit employers from reimbursing their employees for the cost of health insurance the employee purchases on the individual market. An employer who does do this faces a \$100 a day per employee penalty.

This fails to meet the common sense test, particularly when it comes to farmers, ranchers, and small business owners who frequently do not have the resources to offer a traditional group health plan to their employees.

These businesses have no obligation under the ACA to offer any form of insurance. However, they would like to do what they can to help their employees obtain coverage. This is a practice that should be commended, not penalized.

This is why last June I introduced the Small Business Health Care Relief Act with Senator HEITKAMP. Under our bill, small businesses would once again be able to do something many have done for years. Namely, reimburse their employees on a pre-tax basis for the purchase of health insurance on the individual market.

Since introduction, Senator HEITKAMP and I have been working, along with Congressman BOUSTANY and THOMPSON in the House, with the Joint Committee on Taxation and Treasury to get feedback on our bill to ensure it works as intended.

I am pleased today to see that this hard work is starting to bear fruit. The Ways and Means Committee marked up and favorably reported to the full House a slightly revised version of our bill with bipartisan support.

In hopes of continuing this momentum, Senator HEITKAMP and I are reintroducing this revised version of the Small Business Health Care Relief Act in the Senate today.

This new version mainly makes improvements to the bill to ensure the bill will work as intended. Further, in order to address cost concerns, the bill imposes a generous limit on the amount an employer may provide to their employee to purchase individual insurance. This limit is set at \$5,130 for individuals and \$10,260 for a family. These amounts are indexed for inflation going forward.

I am pleased that our bill continues to have strong support from the small business community, including the National Association of Home Builders, the National Association for the Self-Employed, the National Federation of Independent Business, the Council for Affordable Health Coverage, the American Farm Bureau, and many more.

This legislation should be a no brainer for anyone who supports small business. I hope with today's action in the Ways and Means Committee, it is only a matter of time before this legislation becomes law. I urge all my colleagues to work with Senator HEITKAMP and me to see to it that this becomes a reality.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4685. Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. SHELBY (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2578, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

SA 4686. Mr. SHELBY proposed an amendment to amendment SA 4685 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. SHELBY (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI)) to the bill H.R. 2578, supra.

SA 4687. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the