

our communities from violent criminals and suspected terrorists who are illegally present in the United States.

S. 96

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 96, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to ensure the integrity of voice communications and to prevent unjust or unreasonable discrimination among areas of the United States in the delivery of such communications.

S. 175

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 175, 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. 178

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 178, a bill to prevent elder abuse and exploitation and improve the justice system's response to victims in elder abuse and exploitation cases.

S. 203

At the request of Mr. BURR, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. 203, a bill to reaffirm that the Environmental Protection Agency may not regulate vehicles used solely for competition, and for other purposes.

S. 220

At the request of Mr. SASSE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 220, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion.

S. 224

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 224, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking minors across State lines in circumvention of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions.

S. 229

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 229, a bill to provide for the confidentiality of information submitted in requests for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program and for other purposes.

S. 236

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin

(Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 236, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform taxation of alcoholic beverages.

S. 240

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 240, a bill to nullify the effect of the recent executive order that temporarily restricted individuals from certain countries from entering the United States.

S. 247

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 247, a bill to provide an incentive for businesses to bring jobs back to America.

S. 248

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 248, a bill to block implementation of the Executive Order that restricts individuals from certain countries from entering the United States.

S.J. RES. 8

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 8, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

S.J. RES. 9

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 9, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8, of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Securities and Exchange Commission relating to the disclosure of payments by resource extraction issuers.

S.J. RES. 10

At the request of Mr. THUNE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 10, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the final rule submitted by the Secretary of the Interior relating to stream protection.

S.J. RES. 14

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 14, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Social Security Administration relating to Implementation of the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007.

S. CON. RES. 6

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 6, a concurrent resolution supporting the Local Radio Freedom Act.

S. RES. 18

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 18, a resolution reaffirming the United States-Argentina partnership and recognizing Argentina's economic reforms.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. HELLER):

S. 253. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise in support of the Medicare Access to Rehabilitation Services Act, which I am introducing today with my colleagues Senators COLLINS, CASEY, and HELLER. This important bill repeals the monetary caps that limit Medicare beneficiaries' access to medically necessary outpatient physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language pathology services.

Limits on outpatient rehabilitation therapy services under Medicare were first imposed in 1997 as part of the Balanced Budget Act. The decision to impose limits on these services was not based on data, quality-of-care concerns, or clinical judgment—its sole purpose was to limit spending in order to balance the Federal budget. Since 1997, Congress has acted 12 times to prevent the implementation of the therapy caps through moratoriums and an exceptions process. While these short-term actions have provided necessary relief to our seniors, a long-term solution is essential to bring permanent relief and much-needed stability for both patients and providers.

We need a full repeal of the existing caps on physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language pathology services. These annual financial caps limit services often needed after a

stroke, traumatic brain injury, or spinal cord injury, or to effectively manage conditions such as Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, and arthritis. Arbitrary caps on these vital Medicare outpatient therapy services are simply unacceptable. They also discriminate against the oldest and sickest Medicare beneficiaries, who typically require the most intensive therapy, and disadvantage Medicare beneficiaries who live in regions with higher health care costs.

In a 2009 report issued by the Medicare Payment Advisory Committee, MEDPAC, it was estimated that the therapy cap, if enforced without an exceptions process, could negatively impact 931,000 Medicare beneficiaries. Arbitrarily capping outpatient rehabilitation therapy services would likely cause some beneficiaries to delay necessary care, force others to assume higher out-of-pocket costs, and disrupt the continuum of care for many seniors and individuals with disabilities.

I urge my colleagues to join me and Senator COLLINS in supporting the Medicare Access to Rehabilitation Services Act to ensure that our seniors have access to the outpatient rehabilitation therapy services that they need.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 253

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "Medicare Access to Rehabilitation Services Act of 2017".

**SEC. 2. OUTPATIENT THERAPY CAP REPEAL.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1833 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395(l)) is amended by striking subsection (g).

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 1842(t)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395u(t)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking "(2) Each request" and all that follows through "1833(a)(8)(B)," and inserting "(2)(A) Each request for payment, or bill submitted, for therapy services described in subparagraph (B)"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(B) The following therapy services are described in this subparagraph:

"(i) Physical therapy services of the type described in section 1861(p) and speech-language pathology services of the type described in such section through the application of section 1861(l)(2), including services described in section 1833(a)(8)(B), and physical therapy services and speech-language pathology services of such type which are furnished by a physician or as incident to physicians' services.

"(ii) Occupational therapy services of the type that are described in section 1861(p), including services described in section 1833(a)(8)(B), through the operation of section 1861(g) and of such type which are furnished by a physician or as incident to physicians' services."

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CAS-

SIDY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. HELLER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. DAINES, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. SHELBY, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 260. A bill to repeal the provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act providing for the Independent Payment Advisory Board; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 260

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "Protecting Seniors' Access to Medicare Act of 2017".

**SEC. 2. REPEAL OF THE INDEPENDENT PAYMENT ADVISORY BOARD.**

Effective as of the enactment of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), sections 3403 and 10320 of such Act (including the amendments made by such sections) are repealed, and any provision of law amended by such sections is hereby restored as if such sections had not been enacted into law.

**SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS**

**SENATE RESOLUTION 30—AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES BY THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY**

Mr. ROBERTS submitted the following resolution; from the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 30

*Resolved,*

**SECTION 1. GENERAL AUTHORITY.**

In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry (in this resolution referred to as the "committee") is authorized from March 1, 2017 through February 28, 2019, in its discretion, to—

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

**SEC. 2. EXPENSES.**

(a) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2017.—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2017 through September 30, 2017 under this resolution shall not exceed \$2,463,834, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$200,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$40,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(b) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018 PERIOD.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018 under this resolution shall not exceed \$4,223,716, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$200,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$40,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2019.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2018 through February 28, 2019 under this resolution shall not exceed \$1,759,882, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$200,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$40,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

**SEC. 3. REPORTING LEGISLATION.**

The committee shall report its findings, together with such recommendations for legislation as it deems advisable, to the Senate at the earliest practicable date, but not later than February 28, 2019.

**SEC. 4. EXPENSES AND AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS.**

(a) EXPENSES OF THE COMMITTEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), expenses of the committee under this resolution shall be paid from the contingent fund of the Senate upon vouchers approved by the chairman of the committee.

(2) VOUCHERS NOT REQUIRED.—Vouchers shall not be required for—

(A) the disbursement of salaries of employees paid at an annual rate;

(B) the payment of telecommunications provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper;

(C) the payment of stationery supplies purchased through the Keeper of the Stationery;

(D) payments to the Postmaster of the Senate;

(E) the payment of metered charges on copying equipment provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper;

(F) the payment of Senate Recording and Photographic Services; or

(G) the payment of franked and mass mail costs by the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper.

(b) AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS.—There are authorized to be paid from the appropriations account for "Expenses of Inquiries and Investigations" of the Senate such sums as may be necessary for agency contributions related to the compensation of employees of the committee—

(1) for the period March 1, 2017 through September 30, 2017;

(2) for the period October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018; and

(3) for the period October 1, 2018 through February 28, 2019.