

S. 1027

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1027, a bill to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.

S. 1089

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1089, a bill to require the Secretary of Energy to review and update a report on the energy and environmental benefits of the re-refining of used lubricating oil.

S. 1094

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1094, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the accountability of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 1105

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1105, a bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to transfer certain funds to the 1974 United Mine Workers of America Pension Plan, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 40

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 40, a joint resolution to provide limitations on the transfer of air-to-ground munitions from the United States to Saudi Arabia.

S. RES. 136

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 136, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the 102nd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

S. RES. 139

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 139, a resolution condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

S. RES. 155

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 155, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States should work in cooperation with the international community and continue to exercise global leadership to address the causes and effects of climate change, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 161

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the name of the Senator from New York

(Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 161, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that defense laboratories are on the cutting edge of scientific and technological advancement, and supporting the designation of May 18, 2017, as "Department of Defense Laboratory Day".

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 1125. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide Federal Pell Grants to Iraq and Afghanistan veteran's dependents; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, when a United States servicemember gives their life in service to their country, they often leave behind family who we are equally indebted. Ensuring that these survivors are provided every opportunity to succeed and get a quality education supports our values and upholds our promise to servicemembers and military families. Unfortunately, our ability to uphold our promise to dependents of servicemembers who were killed in action (KIA) in Iraq and Afghanistan following the attacks on September 11, 2001 was affected recently.

In May 2016 the U.S. Department of Education sent a letter to institutions of higher education requiring them to reduce the Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant awards by 7% or roughly \$400 per student. These grants are critical for students to use for tuition, books, and room and board and any future cut would be significant for a young college student. Many children and dependents of servicemembers who were KIA in Iraq and Afghanistan are now reaching college age so more and more students will not be receiving as much in grants as they should be getting and rightfully deserve.

Today, I am pleased to introduce with my colleague Senator TESTER the Protect our Gold Star Families' Education Act of 2017. This legislation will move the Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant program to the Pell Grant program to stabilize the funding source for these awards and ensure Gold Star families have access to the maximum Pell Grant funding available if they previously did not qualify for Pell Grants. The program would maintain the same eligibility requirements under the existing Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants—parent or guardian having died as a result of military service in Iraq or Afghanistan after 9/11 and are 24 years old or younger—and the award would continue to equal the maximum Pell Grant for that award year.

While Virginia public universities already offer tuition assistance to dependents whose parents were killed in action or were permanently disabled under the state's Virginia Military

Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP), these funds could be used to offset tuition at private institutions and could also cover additional expenses, including room and board, books, and supplies. Over 500 Virginians have attended or are currently attending college at public universities with assistance through VMSDEP and would qualify for these Pell Grants as well.

Our Gold Star families have made the ultimate sacrifice for this country and ensuring they have access to a quality college education is the right thing to do. Moving the Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant under the Pell Grant program will provide more security to Gold Star families and help ease the burden of college costs. As more of our post 9/11 Gold Star children are starting to reach college age, now is the right time to improve the grant system. I hope that my colleagues will incorporate this bill in a reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that floor privileges be granted to Les Bernys through the end of the year.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 114-255, appoints the following individuals to the Health Information Technology Advisory Committee: Steve Ready of Kentucky and Dr. Anil Jain of Ohio.

#### ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2017

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, May 16; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Rosen nomination, with the time until 12:30 p.m. equally divided in the usual form; further, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings; finally, that all time during recess, adjournment, morning business, and leader remarks count postcloture on the Rosen nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, if there is no further business to come

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before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:12 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, May 16, 2017, at 10 a.m.