

BOOKER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. REED, Mr. UDALL, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 1806. A bill to amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 and the Head Start Act to promote child care and early learning, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 1807. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a national strategic action plan and program to assist health professionals in preparing for and responding to the public health effects of climate change, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. REED, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 1808. A bill to extend temporarily the Federal Perkins Loan program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. BURR):

S. 1809. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish the Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Challenge Grant Program to promote technological innovation in our Nation's cities; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 1810. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to provide access to free credit freezes for all consumers; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 1811. A bill to promote merger enforcement and protect competition through adjusting premerger filing fees, increasing antitrust enforcement resources, and improving the information provided to antitrust enforcers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 1812. A bill to amend the Clayton Act to modify the standard for an unlawful acquisition, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. BALDWIN:

S. 1813. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide credit toward computation of years of service for nonregular service retired pay for completion of remotely delivered military education or training; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 1814. A bill to provide support for the development of middle school career exploration programs linked to career and technical education programs of study; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. FRANKEN, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 1815. A bill to require data brokers to establish procedures to ensure the accuracy of collected personal information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. VAN HOL-

LEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 1816. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to enhance fraud alert procedures and provide free access to credit freezes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 1817. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand tax-free distributions from individual retirement accounts for charitable purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ENZI:

S. 1818. A bill to provide health care options for small businesses; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MERKLEY, and Ms. HARRIS):

S. 1819. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to prohibit the use of consumer credit checks against prospective and current employees for the purposes of making adverse employment decisions; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. MCCAIN, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. REED):

S. 1820. A bill to provide for the retention and service of transgender members of the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 1821. A bill to establish the National Commission on the Cybersecurity of United States Election Systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HEITKAMP, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 1822. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit amounts paid for programs to obtain a recognized postsecondary credential or a license to be treated as qualified higher education expenses for purposes of a 529 account; to the Committee on Finance.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. HEITKAMP:

S. Res. 255. A resolution congratulating the National Federation of Federal Employees on the celebration of the 100th anniversary of its founding and recognizing the vital contributions of its members to the United States; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. REED, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HELLER, Mr. NELSON, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. WARNER, Mr. UDALL, and Mr. RUBIO)):

S. Res. 256. A resolution recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month and celebrating the

heritage and culture of Latinos in the United States and the immense contributions of Latinos to the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. Res. 257. A resolution designating September 16, 2017, as "Isaac M. Wise Temple Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. KING, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. Res. 258. A resolution designating the week beginning September 10, 2017, as "National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. PETERS):

S. Res. 259. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of September 11 through September 15, 2017, as "National Family Service Learning Week"; considered and agreed to.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 194

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 194, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a public health insurance option, and for other purposes.

S. 292

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST), the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 292, a bill to maximize discovery, and accelerate development and availability, of promising childhood cancer treatments, and for other purposes.

S. 322

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 322, 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. 360

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 360, a bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require States to provide for same day registration.

S. 431

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 431, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand the use of telehealth for individuals with stroke.

S. 464

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

(Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 464, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a permanent Independence at Home medical practice program under the Medicare program.

S. 479

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 479, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive coinsurance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening.

S. 683

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 683, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the requirement to provide nursing home care to certain veterans with service-connected disabilities.

S. 705

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 705, a bill to amend the National Child Protection Act of 1993 to establish a national criminal history background check system and criminal history review program for certain individuals who, related to their employment, have access to children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 808

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 808, a bill to provide protections for certain sports medicine professionals who provide certain medical services in a secondary State.

S. 819

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 819, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

S. 872

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 872, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make permanent the extension of the Medicare-dependent hospital (MDH) program and the increased payments under the Medicare low-volume hospital program.

S. 946

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 946, a bill to require the Secretary of

Veterans Affairs to hire additional Veterans Justice Outreach Specialists to provide treatment court services to justice-involved veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 1050

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1050, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Chinese-American Veterans of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.

S. 1117

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1117, a bill to protect the investment choices of investors in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1146

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1146, a bill to enhance the ability of the Office of the National Ombudsman to assist small businesses in meeting regulatory requirements and develop outreach initiatives to promote awareness of the services the Office of the National Ombudsman provides, and for other purposes.

S. 1270

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1270, a bill to direct the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to carry out programs and activities to ensure that Federal science agencies and institutions of higher education receiving Federal research and development funding are fully engaging their entire talent pool, and for other purposes.

S. 1361

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1361, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to allow physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists to supervise cardiac, intensive cardiac, and pulmonary rehabilitation programs.

S. 1591

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1591, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and for other purposes.

S. 1718

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1718, a bill to authorize the minting of a coin in honor of the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, and for other purposes.

S. 1774

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from Illinois

(Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1742, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an option for any citizen or permanent resident of the United States age 55 to 64 to buy into Medicare.

S. 1774

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1774, a bill to provide protections for workers with respect to their right to select or refrain from selecting representation by a labor organization.

S. 1782

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1782, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the definition of full-time employee for purposes of the employer mandate in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. 1783

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1783, a bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require each State to implement a process under which individuals who are 16 years of age may apply to register to vote in elections for Federal office in the State, to direct the Election Assistance Commission to make grants to States to increase the involvement of minors in public election activities, and for other purposes.

S. 1786

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1786, a bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to enhance the accuracy of credit reporting and provide greater rights to consumers who dispute errors in their credit reports, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 426

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 426 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 510

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 510 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 558

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 558 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 607

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 607 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 670

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 670 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 714

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 714 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 768

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 768 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 770

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 770 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and

for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 803

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 803 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 819

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 819 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 879

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 879 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 900

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 900 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 909

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 909 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 938

At the request of Mrs. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 938 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appro-

priations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 939

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 939 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 942

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 942 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 967

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 967 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 999

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 999 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1004

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1004 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1017

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

(Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1017 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1027

At the request of Mr. STRANGE, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1027 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1032

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1032 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1033

At the request of Mr. PERDUE, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1033 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1056

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1056 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 1814. A bill to provide support for the development of middle school career exploration programs linked to ca-

reer and technical education programs of study; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President. Far too many students leave our Country's classrooms ill-equipped to keep up with the demands of the 21st century job market. Many enter high school and postsecondary education uninformed of the range of careers available to them. For our Country's continued success, it is essential that our young people have exposure to the vast range of available work and career options early in their academic careers so that, by the time they begin high school, they are more knowledgeable about future paths and what they need to do to pursue them.

Wherever I travel through Virginia I hear the same thing from business owners, manufacturers, and plant managers: there are good paying jobs out there, we just need to train our students with the skills to fill them. Middle school is a time for students to begin thinking about what they want to pursue in life. Helping them explore how their coursework could support those interests can make a valuable difference down the road.

Programs that focus on career and technical education (CTE) allow for students to explore their own strengths and passions, as well as how they match up with potential future careers. But limited funding for middle school CTE programming often requires students to wait until high school for access to this type of experience.

This is why I am pleased to introduce today the Middle School Technical Education Program Act, or Middle STEP Act. This bipartisan legislation creates a pilot program that allows for middle schools to partner with colleges and local businesses to develop and implement CTE exploration programs that give students access to apprenticeships or project-based learning opportunities. Additionally, middle school CTE programs funded through the Middle STEP Act would give students access to career guidance and academic counseling to help them understand the educational requirements for high-growth, in-demand career fields. Programs would assist students in drafting a high school graduation plan that demonstrates what courses prepare them for a given career. The programs must also provide a clear transition path from the introductory middle school program to a more narrow focus of CTE study in high school, and must be accessible to students from economically disadvantaged, urban and rural communities.

I believe this meaningful legislation can propel young students toward the careers of the future, and help to fill workforce shortages across the Commonwealth and the Nation. I strongly encourage my colleagues to consider this legislation to allow for students to have opportunities to explore potential career choices and pathways early on in their academic careers. Their futures depend on it.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 255—CONGRATULATING THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ON THE CELEBRATION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDING AND RECOGNIZING THE VITAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF ITS MEMBERS TO THE UNITED STATES

Ms. HEITKAMP submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

## S. RES. 255

Whereas the National Federation of Federal Employees (referred to in this preamble as the "NFFE") was created in 1917 as the first union in the United States to exclusively represent civil service Federal employees;

Whereas the NFFE preserves, promotes, and improves the rights and working conditions of Federal employees and other professionals through all lawful means, including collective bargaining, legislative activities, and contributing to civic and charitable organizations;

Whereas the contributions of the NFFE are noted in history through a century of achievements for the Federal labor movement, including numerous reforms to workforce policy and working conditions;

Whereas NFFE members serve the United States by performing critical functions throughout Federal agencies, including the Department of Defense, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service, the National Park Service, the Federal Aviation Administration, the General Services Administration, the Indian Health Service, the Passport Service of the Bureau of Consular Affairs, and the Corps of Engineers;

Whereas, through a partnership with the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers and the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, the NFFE promotes better working conditions and an improved quality of life for working families across the United States;

Whereas the NFFE represents more than 100,000 Federal employees; and

Whereas the NFFE continues to ensure that the voices of Federal civil servants are properly represented: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate congratulates and honors the National Federation of Federal Employees on the celebration of the 100th anniversary of its founding.

SENATE RESOLUTION 256—RECOGNIZING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH AND CELEBRATING THE HERITAGE AND CULTURE OF LATINOS IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE IMMENSE CONTRIBUTIONS OF LATINOS TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. REED, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HELLER, Mr. NELSON, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. WARNER, Mr. UDALL, and Mr. RUBIO)) submitted the