

115-123), and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the Commission on Social Impact Partnerships: Dr. James Sullivan of South Bend, Indiana.

The message further announced that pursuant to the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 955(b)), and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the National Council on the Arts: Mr. GLENN THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2511. A bill to require the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere to carry out a program on coordinating the assessment and acquisition by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of unmanned maritime systems, to make available to the public data collected by the Administration using such systems, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-291).

S. 2717. A bill to reauthorize provisions relating to the Maritime Administration (Rept. No. 115-292).

By Mr. ALEXANDER, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 808. A bill to provide protections for certain sports medicine professionals who provide certain medical services in a secondary State.

S. 1112. A bill to support States in their work to save and sustain the health of mothers during pregnancy, childbirth, and in the postpartum period, to eliminate disparities in maternal health outcomes for pregnancy-related and pregnancy-associated deaths, to identify solutions to improve health care quality and health outcomes for mothers, and for other purposes.

S. 3029. A bill to revise and extend the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Act (PREEMIE Act).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR:

S. 3183. A bill to require large ticket agents to adopt minimum customer service standards for the purchase of air fares and related passenger air transportation services; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BENNET:

S. 3184. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the requirements for applications for construction of State home facilities to increase the maximum percentage of nonveterans allowed to be treated at such facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. SMITH:

S. 3185. A bill to support the preparation and retention of outstanding educators in all

fields to ensure a bright future for children and youth in under-resourced and under-served communities in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. JONES):

S. 3186. A bill to require the Internal Revenue Service to establish, incrementally over five years, a nationwide program to provide personal identification numbers to taxpayers to help prevent tax-related identity theft; 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 Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CARPER, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. HIRONO, and Ms. HARRIS):

S. Res. 569. A resolution recognizing the importance of public park and recreation facilities and activities and providing for the designation of the month of July 2018 as "Park and Recreation Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 108

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 108, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on medical devices.

S. 236

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) 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. 379

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 379, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the five month waiting period for disability insurance benefits under such title for individuals with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

S. 389

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 389, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that kombucha is exempt from any excise taxes and regulations imposed on alcoholic beverages.

S. 521

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 521, a bill to make the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass available at a discount to veterans.

S. 888

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 888, a bill to amend the Higher Education Opportunity Act to add disclosure requirements to the institution financial aid offer form and to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to make such form mandatory.

S. 1212

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1212, a bill to provide family members of an individual who they fear is a danger to himself, herself, or others, and law enforcement, with new tools to prevent gun violence.

S. 1242

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1242, a bill to provide for increases in the Federal minimum wage, and for other purposes.

S. 2265

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2265, a bill to promote democracy and the rule of law in Nicaragua, and for other purposes.

S. 2436

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2436, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to limit the amount of certain qualified conservation contributions.

S. 2554

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2554, a bill to ensure that health insurance issuers and group health plans do not prohibit pharmacy providers from providing certain information to enrollees.

S. 2597

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2597, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the program of payments to children's hospitals that operate graduate medical education programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2835

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2835, a bill to require a study of the well-being of the newsprint and publishing industry in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2881

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2881, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to seek to enter into an agreement with the city of Vallejo, California, for the transfer of Mare Island Naval Cemetery in Vallejo, California, and for other purposes.

S. 2961

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2961, a bill to reauthorize subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990.

S. 3013

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3013, a bill to amend the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 to require Congressional approval before the President adjusts imports that are determined to threaten to impair national security.

S. 3038

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3038, a bill to assist in the conservation of the North Atlantic right whale by supporting and providing financial resources for North Atlantic right whale conservation programs and projects of persons with expertise required for the conservation of North Atlantic right whales.

S. 3041

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3041, a bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide for disaster recovery reforms, and for other purposes.

S. 3142

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3142, a bill to provide for proper oversight of North Korea policy, and for other purposes.

S. 3178

At the request of Ms. HARRIS, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3178, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to specify lynching as a deprivation of civil rights, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 527

At the request of Mr. PERDUE, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 527, a resolution congratulating the people of Georgia on the 100th anniversary of its declaration of independence as a democratic republic and reaffirming the strength of the relationship between the United States and Georgia.

S. RES. 557

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 557, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the strategic importance of NATO to the collective security of the transatlantic region and urging its member states to work together at the upcoming summit to strengthen the alliance.

S. RES. 565

At the request of Mr. PERDUE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 565, a resolution honoring the 40th anniversary of Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay in Kings Bay, Georgia.

S. RES. 566

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 566, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the President of the United States must immediately establish an interagency Office for Locating and Reuniting Children with Parents in order to protect separated children from suffering additional trauma resulting from the "Zero Tolerance" policy.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. JONES):

S. 3186. A bill to require the Internal Revenue Service to establish, incrementally over five years, a nationwide program to provide personal identification numbers to taxpayers to help prevent tax-related identity theft; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am pleased to introduce with my colleague from Alabama, Senator JONES, the Taxpayer Identity Protection Act of 2018, a bill that seeks to help prevent American taxpayers and seniors from falling victim to identity theft and tax refund fraud.

As of May 17, the IRS had received more than 141.5 million individual income tax returns for the 2018 filing season. Of that number, nearly 75 percent were eligible for refunds. These refunds are not a gift from the Federal government—they are the return of funds belonging to taxpayers that were withheld from their paychecks last year. In the past few months, millions of American families have been eagerly awaiting these tax refunds, money they may need to pay off debts, medical bills, and plug gaps in the family budget. Unfortunately, for many Americans these refunds have not yet come.

Taxpayers are not the only ones eagerly awaiting these refunds. Criminals have figured out that, in many instances, it is cheaper and easier for them to steal taxpayers' identities and hijack their tax refunds than it is to traffic in drugs or rob banks.

Identity theft-refund fraud occurs when a criminal files a false tax return using a stolen Social Security Number and other sensitive personal information from sources like hospitals, schools, or assisted living facilities, often by recruiting employees to steal that information. The fraudster then uses this information to prepare fraudulent tax returns.

The thieves make sure to file early, as soon as the tax filing season opens in January, to increase the odds that they can get a refund before the real

taxpayer files his or her return. The criminals are known to hold what they call "make it rain parties," where they bring stolen laptops to a motel room with Internet access, and work together churning-out scores of fake returns.

These fraudsters work under the premise of "file early, file often." Once the thieves file the fraudulent tax return, the IRS processes it and issues a refund. With each refund worth on average \$2,778, the money can add up quickly.

This is not a victimless crime. Last year, the Federal Trade Commission received more than 371,000 complaints of identity theft, including 82,000 complaints related to employment or tax-refund fraud. Taxpayers who have their refunds hijacked by fraudsters often have to wait years to get the refunds to which they are legally entitled. Many are re-victimized year after year. A substantial number become victims of other forms of identity theft. Worst of all, victims are often the most vulnerable: elderly citizens who earn so little they are not even required to file a tax return. The IG estimates that 76,000 low-income elderly citizens were victims of tax-fraud identity theft in 2010 alone.

In 2016, the Lewiston Sun Journal published a story about a couple, Rick Zaccaro and his wife, Bonnie Washuk, who were victims of tax refund fraud. They had filed their taxes in late January 2015, and when Rick, a retired financial analyst for the Postal Service, was checking the status of their return online in early February, he learned that they were the victims of identity theft. Someone had filed and claimed a tax refund using their names, dates of birth, and Social Security Numbers. That claim was paid while their legitimate tax filing, with their appropriate W2s, was in limbo. It took months of worrying, frozen bank accounts, and a lot of calls to multiple government offices for them to try and straighten things out. When they did finally receive their refund, they also received something called an Identity Protection Personal Identification Number—better known as an IP PIN.

To provide relief to some victims of identity theft, the IRS began issuing IP PINs to eligible taxpayers in fiscal year 2011. An IP PIN is a six-digit number assigned to eligible taxpayers that allows their tax returns and refunds to be processed without delay and helps prevent the misuse of their Social Security Numbers on fraudulent income tax returns. If a return is e-filed with their Social Security Number and an incorrect or missing IP PIN, the IRS's system automatically rejects the tax return until it is submitted with the correct IP PIN or they file on paper. If the same conditions occur on a paper-filed return, the IRS will delay its processing and any refund that may be due while the IRS determines if the return actually belongs to the taxpayer.

In addition to victims of identity theft, in 2013, the IRS began a pilot