

1967. After his military service, Judge Caputo worked as a public defender in Luzerne County for 1 year before joining the law firm of Shea & Shea. In 1973, the firm was renamed Shea, Shea & Caputo, and after nearly 30 years in private practice, Judge Caputo was nominated to a seat on the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania by President Bill Clinton in 1997. After being confirmed by the Senate, he honorably served on the Federal bench in the Middle District for over two decades.

Judge Caputo was known as a strong and fair jurist who treated everyone with deep respect in his courtroom. He strongly believed in balancing individual rights with the needs of a well-ordered society, and some in the Pennsylvania legal community have remembered him as a judge who was not afraid to depart from Federal sentencing guidelines when he found them to be too harsh. He was deeply committed to the judiciary, as evidenced by the fact that he continued to hear cases up until just a few months prior to his death. He believed that the judiciary was the heart of our democracy. Chief U.S. District Judge Christopher Conner remembered Judge Caputo as a “judge’s judge”—a strong, direct and erudite jurist,” who made “extraordinary contributions to the Wilkes-Barre vicinage, to our entire court, and to our country.”

At a time when our Nation faces unprecedented challenges in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, Judge Munley and Judge Caputo are important reminders of the intellect, compassion, and fairness that have guided our Nation since its founding. They will be missed tremendously, but their legacy will continue to inspire countless Pennsylvanians and individuals throughout our country.●

TRIBUTE TO INEZ MITTLEIDER

● Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I want to honor a very special North Dakota woman who is turning 100 years old on Friday. Inez Mittleider of Bismarck was born on March 27, 1920, in South Dakota and at a young age moved with her family to southwestern North Dakota. Living thorough the Dirty Thirties and the Great Depression, she had to leave home and live with family friends while she completed high school. She was one of very few women of her generation to earn a college degree. Inez lived in the communities of Heil and Mott and taught in one-room schoolhouses for nearly 10 years.

Inez and her husband raised four children and instilled in them the necessity of hard work and self reliance. Today, Inez is the grandmother of seven, great-grandmother of nine, and continues to live on her own in Bismarck. Her many family members plan to gather to celebrate this centennial milestone with Inez later in the year.

Mr. President, North Dakota is home to more than 200 centenarians, and we

consider them among our most treasured residents. They have witnessed great moments in North Dakota’s history and their pioneer spirit, dignity, and hard work have brought them through many challenges and personal achievements.

On behalf of all North Dakotans, I want to wish Inez a happy 100th birthday, and hope this is the start of a year filled with happiness and joy.●

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 Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Ms. HARRIS):

S. 3579. A bill to require the release of certain individuals in the custody of the United States because of their risk of exposure during a national emergency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO:

S. 3580. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to submit to Congress a report assessing the billing practices of the Department of Defense for care received under the TRICARE program and at military medical treatment facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO:

S. 3581. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to submit to Congress a report assessing Federal, State, and other mental health services available to members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. JONES, Mr. BENNET, and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 3582. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand eligibility for the health care tax credit to workers in certain critical industries; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CASEY, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. PETERS):

S. 3583. A bill to provide that certain Executive Orders and presidential memorandum with respect to Federal employee collective bargaining shall have no force or effect, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 3584. A bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to issue an emergency temporary standard that requires certain employers to develop and implement a comprehensive infectious disease exposure control plan to protect employees in the health care sectors and other employees at elevated risk from exposure to SARS-CoV-2, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 3585. A bill to place a moratorium on evictions during the coronavirus emergency; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself and Mr. PAUL):

S. 3586. A bill to reduce Federal spending and fund the acquisition of unexpired per-

sonal protective equipment (including face masks) for the strategic national stockpile by terminating taxpayer financing of Presidential election campaigns; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 3587. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the accessibility of websites of the Department of Veterans Affairs to individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. CRAMER:

S. Res. 554. A resolution recognizing the contributions of health care professionals during the 2020 Coronavirus pandemic; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 2898

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2898, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for a full annuity supplement for certain air traffic controllers.

S. 3374

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3374, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to protect the confidentiality of substance use disorder patient records.

S. 3559

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3559, a bill to provide emergency financial assistance to rural health care facilities and providers impacted by the COVID-19 emergency.

S. 3568

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3568, a bill to require the President to use authorities under the Defense Production Act of 1950 to require emergency production of medical equipment to address the COVID-19 outbreak.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 3587. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the accessibility of websites of the Department of Veterans Affairs to individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 3587

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 “Department of Veterans Affairs Website Accessibility Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. STUDY ON THE ACCESSIBILITY OF WEBSITES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.

(a) **STUDY.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct a study of all websites of the Department of Veterans Affairs to determine whether such websites are accessible to individuals with disabilities in accordance with section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794d).

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 90 days after completing the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on such study.

(c) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required by subsection (b) shall include the following:

(1) A list of each website described in subsection (a) that is not accessible to individuals with disabilities in accordance with section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794d).

(2) For each website identified in the list under paragraph (1)—

(A) the plan of the Secretary to bring the website into compliance with the requirements of section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794d); and

(B) a description of the barriers to bringing the website into compliance with the requirements of such section, including any barriers relating to vacant positions at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(d) **WEBSITE DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “website” includes the following:

(1) A file attached to a website.

(2) A web-based application.

(3) A kiosk at a medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the use of which is required to check in for scheduled appointments.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 554—RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS DURING THE 2020 CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Mr. CRAMER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 554

Whereas, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of Coronavirus disease 2019 (referred to in this preamble as “COVID-19”) a pandemic;

Whereas, on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a national emergency, mobilizing the entire United States in the fight against COVID-19;

Whereas doctors and nurses across the United States have worked tirelessly to combat COVID-19, setting up testing facilities and providing constant top-notch care to individuals who have been infected;

Whereas mental health professionals have continued to provide excellent therapy and counseling services, even in the face of the unique challenges presented by social distancing across the United States;

Whereas researchers and lab technicians have been working around the clock to create tests, find a treatment, and, ultimately, find a cure for COVID-19;

Whereas public health officials have worked to educate their communities and implement policies that will curb the communal spread of COVID-19; and

Whereas every individual in the health care community, which includes doctors, nurses, custodial staff, administrative staff, registered nurses, patient care assistants, public health officials, mental health professionals, researchers, lab technicians, and many others, has acted with excellence and professionalism to ensure that the citizens of the United States receive the care they need to get the United States through the COVID-19 crisis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) observes that the spirit of the United States remains resilient in the face of the crisis caused by Coronavirus disease 2019 (referred to in this resolution as “COVID-19”);

(2) expresses gratitude to the people of the United States for doing their part to stop the spread of COVID-19; and

(3) salutes health care professionals across the United States.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1577. Mr. SASSE (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. JOHNSON, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. LEE) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 1578 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 748, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high cost employer-sponsored health coverage.

SA 1578. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 748, *supra*.

SA 1579. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. MORAN) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3504, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for improvements to the specially adapted housing program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1577. Mr. SASSE (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. JOHNSON, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. LEE) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 1578 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 748, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high cost employer-sponsored health coverage; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title II of division A, insert the following:

SEC. 2117. UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS MAY NOT EXCEED THE AMOUNT OF WAGES THE INDIVIDUAL WAS EARNING PRIOR TO BECOMING UNEMPLOYED.

(a) **PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE.**—Notwithstanding section 2101, in no case may the total amount of the weekly assistance applicable to an individual under paragraph (1) or (2) of section 2102 (including the increase under section 2104) exceed the amount of the individual’s average weekly wages for an appropriate period prior to the receipt of assistance under such section, as determined by the Secretary of Labor.

(b) **FEDERAL PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.**—Notwithstanding section 2104, in no case may the sum of the weekly amount described in subparagraphs (A) (regular compensation) and (B) (Federal pandemic unemployment compensation) of section 2104(b)(1) for an individual exceed the amount of the individual’s average weekly wages for which the amount described in such subparagraph (A) is based.

(c) **PANDEMIC EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.**—Notwithstanding section 2107, in no case may an individual’s average weekly benefit amount described in 2107(b)(3) (including the increase under section 2104) exceed the amount of the average weekly wages for which the individual’s average weekly benefit amount (determined without regard to such increase) is based.

SA 1578. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 748, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high cost employer-sponsored health coverage; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act” or the “CARES Act”.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Table of contents.
- Sec. 3. References.

DIVISION A—KEEPING WORKERS PAID AND EMPLOYED, HEALTH CARE SYSTEM ENHANCEMENTS, AND ECONOMIC STABILIZATION

TITLE I—KEEPING AMERICAN WORKERS PAID AND EMPLOYED ACT

- Sec. 1101. Definitions.
- Sec. 1102. Paycheck protection program.
- Sec. 1103. Entrepreneurial development.
- Sec. 1104. State trade expansion program.
- Sec. 1105. Waiver of matching funds requirement under the women’s business center program.
- Sec. 1106. Loan forgiveness.
- Sec. 1107. Direct appropriations.
- Sec. 1108. Minority business development agency.
- Sec. 1109. United States Treasury Program Management Authority.
- Sec. 1110. Emergency EIDL grants.
- Sec. 1111. Resources and services in languages other than English.
- Sec. 1112. Subsidy for certain loan payments.
- Sec. 1113. Bankruptcy.
- Sec. 1114. Emergency rulemaking authority.

TITLE II—ASSISTANCE FOR AMERICAN WORKERS, FAMILIES, AND BUSINESSES

Subtitle A—Unemployment Insurance Provisions

- Sec. 2101. Short title.
- Sec. 2102. Pandemic Unemployment Assistance.
- Sec. 2103. Emergency unemployment relief for governmental entities and nonprofit organizations.
- Sec. 2104. Emergency increase in unemployment compensation benefits.
- Sec. 2105. Temporary full Federal funding of the first week of compensable regular unemployment for States with no waiting week.
- Sec. 2106. Emergency State staffing flexibility.
- Sec. 2107. Pandemic emergency unemployment compensation.
- Sec. 2108. Temporary financing of short-time compensation payments in States with programs in law.
- Sec. 2109. Temporary financing of short-time compensation agreements.
- Sec. 2110. Grants for short-time compensation programs.
- Sec. 2111. Assistance and guidance in implementing programs.
- Sec. 2112. Waiver of the 7-day waiting period for benefits under the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act.