

LIEBERMAN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. TORRICELLI, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 1133. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow tax-free expenditures from education individual retirement accounts for elementary and secondary school expenses and to increase the maximum annual amount of contributions to such accounts; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. BURNS, Mr. GORTON, and Mr. KEMPTHORNE):

S. 1134. A bill granting the consent and approval of Congress to an interstate forest fire protection compact; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. 1135. A bill to provide certain immunities from civil liability for trade and professional associations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 1136. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to provide that the State preemption rules shall not apply to certain actions under State law to protect health insurance policyholders; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

S. 1137. A bill to amend section 258 of the Communications Act of 1934 to establish additional protections against the unauthorized change of subscribers from one telecommunications carrier to another; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HELMS (for himself, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BURNS, Mr. HAGEL, and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 1138. A bill to reform the coastwise, intercoastal, and noncontiguous trade shipping laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. THURMOND:

S. Res. 111. A resolution designating the week beginning September 14, 1997, as "National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week", and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ASHCROFT (for himself and Mr. FEINGOLD):

S. Res. 112. A resolution condemning the most recent outbreak of violence in the Republic of Congo and recognizing the threat such violence poses to the prospects for a stable democratic form of government in that country; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. GRAHAM:

S. Res. 113. A resolution congratulating the people of Jamaica on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of their nation's independence and expressing support for the continuation of strong ties between Jamaica and the United States; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. TORRICELLI (for himself and Mr. BROWNBACK):

S. Res. 114. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the transfer of Hong Kong to the People's Republic of China not alter the current or future status of Taiwan as a free and democratic country; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. Res. 115. A resolution expressing support for a National Day of Unity in response to the President's call for a national dialogue on race; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Mr. JEFFORDS):

S. Res. 116. A resolution designating November 15, 1997, and November 15, 1998, as "America Recycles Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LUGAR (for himself and Mr. ROCKEFELLER):

S. Con. Res. 47. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the United States Government should fully participate in EXPO 2000 in the year 2000, in Hanover, Germany, and should encourage the academic community and the private sector in the United States to support this worthwhile undertaking; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. KYL (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BURNS, Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. SPECTER):

S. Con. Res. 48. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress regarding proliferation of missile technology from Russia to Iran; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Mr. JEFFORDS):

S. Con. Res. 49. A concurrent resolution authorizing use of the Capitol Grounds for "America Recycles Day" national kick-off campaign; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. ALLARD:

S. 1094. A bill to authorize the use of certain public housing operating funds to provide tenant-based assistance to public housing residents; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

THE CRIME VICTIM HOUSING VOUCHERS BILL JULY 30, 1997

Mr. ALLARD. Today, Mr. President, I would like to introduce a bill that would provide for more public housing vouchers. I have been working on this issue in the Housing Subcommittee, and it is my hope that a similar provision will be placed in the Public Housing bill.

The original intent of the Federal housing assistance program was to provide temporary housing to poor individuals and families. Since their inception, federal housing programs have grown dramatically. Today they provide \$25 billion per year in housing assistance.

In my view, the voucher program is the best means for low-income families to find secure affordable rental housing. The voucher program first began in 1974 and has grown to serve over 1.5 million low-income families today. These families are empowered with the choice of where they want to live and are given the freedom to determine what surroundings they desire. Vouchers are the preferable means of providing affordable housing to low-income individuals.

Vouchers enjoy wide support, including past Republican and Democratic administrations. In fact, the current Secretary of HUD, Secretary Andrew Cuomo supports an expanded voucher program.

Vouchers are very popular, which is demonstrated by the 1.5 million families who are currently using vouchers or certificates. Vouchers empower individuals and promote competition within Public Housing Authorities and within the community, thereby lowering costs and improving conditions for the residents. Vouchers or other alternatives can be less expensive than the current public housing program; they can save the government money, and improve conditions for the tenants.

Studies have indicated that project-based housing assistance costs more on average than the voucher housing program. In fact, the findings of the June 1995 GAO report indicated that housing vouchers cost 10 percent less than project-based housing. This study clearly demonstrated that on a national average, the section 8 tenant-based housing program is cheaper than the public unit-based housing program. In fact, one can say that the savings from the movement to vouchers would amount to \$640 million per year which could add additional housing assistance.

Under this legislation, ten percent of the public housing operating funds that are distributed to each public housing authority would be made available for those who currently live in the public housing unit and wish to be given a voucher. Nothing would be required or mandated; it is simply a choice given to the resident. In fact, we make clear that any unexpended amounts set aside for vouchers would be used by the PHAs for normal operating funds.

Quite frankly, I really don't know how anyone could oppose this provision unless they are just opposed to giving people a choice and an opportunity.

The language that I have proposed also establishes a preference for crime victims. It states that a voucher will be made available to any resident of public housing who is the victim of a crime of violence that has been reported to law enforcement. People should have the option of vouchers when their housing is unsafe.

My strong belief is that we should increase the pace at which we move ahead with the conversion of housing from the old central planning and concentrated public housing model, to one of choice and opportunities through the use of vouchers.

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. DOMENICI and Mr. INOUE):

S. 1095. A bill to enhance the administrative authority of the respective presidents of Haskell Indian Nations University and the Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.