

By Ms. SNOWE:

S. 2599. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a presumption of service-connection for certain veterans with Hepatitis C, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 2600. A bill to amend section 402 of the Controlled Substances Act to reform the civil remedy provisions relating to record-keeping violations; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KYL:

S. 2601. A bill to provide block grant options for certain education funding; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

S. 2602. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for expenses of attending elementary and secondary schools and for contributions to charitable organizations which provide scholarships for children to attend such schools; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. CONRAD):

S. 2603. A bill to promote access to health care services in rural areas; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TORRICELLI:

S. 2604. A bill to provide demonstration grants to local educational agencies to enable the agencies to extend time for learning and the length of the school year; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

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

S. 2605. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment of a national program of traumatic brain injury and spinal cord injury registries; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. ASHCROFT:

S. 2606. A bill to amend the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 to require the President to report to Congress on any selective embargo on agricultural commodities, to provide a termination date for the embargo, to provide greater assurances for contract sanctity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. DEWINE (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. CHAFEE):

S. 2607. A bill to improve the administrative efficiency and effectiveness of the Nation's abuse and neglect courts and the quality and availability of training for judges, attorneys, and volunteers working in such courts, and for other purposes consistent with the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KYL (by request):

S. 2608. A bill to approve a mutual settlement of the Water Rights of the Gila River Indian Community and the United States, on behalf of the Community and the Allottees, and Phelps Dodge Corporation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. BENNETT (for himself and Mr. MACK):

S. 2609. A bill to ensure confidentiality with respect to medical records and health care-related information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. TORRICELLI):

S. 2610. A bill to amend the Clean Air to repeal the grandfather status for electric utility units; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. ROTH (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. MACK):

S. 2611. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to enable medicare bene-

ficiaries to remain enrolled in their chosen medicare health plan; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FORD:

S. 2612. A bill to provide that Tennessee may not impose sales taxes on any goods or services purchased by a resident of Kentucky at Fort Campbell, nor obtain reimbursement for any unemployment compensation claim made by a resident of Tennessee relating to work performed at Fort Campbell; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KERREY:

S. 2613. A bill to accelerate the percentage of health insurance costs deductible by self-employed individuals through the use of revenues resulting from an estate tax technical correction; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COATS:

S. 2614. A bill to amend chapter 96 of title 18, United States Code, to enhance the protection of first amendment rights; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MURKOWSKI:

S. 2615. A bill to study options to improve and enhance the protection, management, and interpretation of the significant natural and other resources of certain units of the National Park System in northwest Alaska, to implement a pilot program to better accomplish the purposes for which those units were established by providing greater involvement by Alaska Native communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ROTH (for himself and Mr. MOYNIHAN):

S. 2616. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make revisions in the per beneficiary and per visit payment limits on payment for health services under the medicare program; 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. THOMAS (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. GRAMS):

S. Res. 294. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to developments in Malaysia and the arrest of Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. COATS (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. COVERDELL):

S. Res. 295. A bill to express the sense of the Senate concerning the development of effective methods for eliminating the use of heroin; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. KERREY:

S. Res. 296. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that, on completion of construction of a World War II Memorial in Area I of the District of Columbia and its environs, Congress should provide funding for the maintenance, security, and custodial and long-term care of the memorial by the National Park Service; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LOTT (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE):

S. Res. 297. A resolution authorizing testimony and representation of former and current Senate employees and representation of Senator Craig in Student Loan Fund of Idaho, Inc. v. Riley, et al; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. ABRAHAM:

S. Res. 298. A resolution condemning the terror, vengeance, and human rights abuses

against the civilian population of Sierra Leone; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. MACK):

S. Con. Res. 127. A concurrent resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. BUMPERS, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. Con. Res. 128. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding measures to achieve a peaceful resolution of the conflict in the state of Chiapas, Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. TORRICELLI (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. DEWINE, and Mr. JEFFORDS):

S. 2596. A bill to amend the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 to improve the farmland protection program; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

FARMLAND PROTECTION LEGISLATION

● Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, today I introduce legislation which will assist in the critical effort to preserve our nation's most vulnerable farmland. I want to first acknowledge Senator LEAHY's decisive leadership on this issue, and recognize him as the author of the original legislation establishing the Farmland Protection Program in the 1996 Farm Bill. He has been a tireless advocate for this important issue, and I look forward to working closely with him in the future to protect more of our Nation's open spaces.

We have heard a lot during the last decade about the dissolution and destruction of the American Family Farm. Indeed, the family farm is under serious threat of extinction. Today, there are 1,925,300 farms in the United States, the lowest number of farms in our Nation since before the Civil War. The U.S. is losing two acres of our best farmland to development every minute of every day. In my State, New Jersey, we have lost 6,000 farms, or 40 percent of our total, since 1959. This reduction has serious implications for the environment, the economy and our food supply.

The threat comes partially from an anachronistic and unfair inheritance tax that threatens the generational continuity of the family farm and partially from the fact that much of America's farmland is near major cities. As our cities sprawl into neighboring rural areas, our farms are in danger of becoming subdivisions or shopping malls.

Last year I strongly supported a significant reduction in the estate tax to