

S. Res. 12. A resolution to make effective reappointment of Senate Legal Counsel; considered and agreed to.

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

S. Res. 13. A resolution to make effective reappointment of Deputy Senate Legal Counsel; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. VOINOVICH (for himself and Mr. DEWINE):

S. Res. 14. A resolution commending the Ohio State University Buckeyes football team for winning the 2002 NCAA Division I—A collegiate national football championship; considered and agreed to.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DASCHLE (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. DODD, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SARBANES, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BIDEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. REID, and Mr. BAUCUS):

S. 8. A bill to encourage lifelong learning by investing in public schools and improving access to and affordability of higher education and job training; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DASCHLE (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. REID, and Mr. PRYOR):

S. 10. A bill to protect consumers in managed care plans and other health coverage, to provide for parity with respect to mental health coverage, to reduce medical errors, and to increase the access of individuals to quality health care; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DASCHLE (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DODD, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. REED, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. REID):

S. 18. A bill to improve early learning opportunities and promote preparedness by increasing the availability of Head Start programs, to increase the availability and affordability of quality child care, to reduce child hunger and encourage healthy eating habits, to facilitate parental involvement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DASCHLE (for himself, Mr. AKAKA, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr.

DURBIN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. SARBANES, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. DODD, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REID, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mr. BREAUX):

S. 76. 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; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP PRIORITIES FOR THE 108TH CONGRESS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, officially, the Congress that ended in December was the 107th Congress. But history will almost surely record it as the September 11th Congress. From the moment the first plane hit the first tower until the last moments of the lameduck session, helping America recover from that horrific day, bringing its plotters to justice and making changes to protect America from future terrorist attacks dominated the Senate's agenda.

We continued that work—even as we confronted unprecedented challenges in the Senate: anthrax, the rise of new threats to our Nation, and the loss of our friend and colleague, Paul Wellstone.

Through tragic and historic events, the 107th Senate under Democratic control produced a number of important legislative accomplishments: aviation security and counterterrorism legislation; the toughest corporate accountability law since the SEC was created in 1934; the most far-reaching campaign finance reforms since Watergate; the most significant overhaul of Federal education policies since 1965; and a new farm bill to replace the failed Freedom to Farm Act.

However, other important legislation fell victim to special-interest arm-twisting, and the other party's unwillingness to compromise on their proposals, or even consider ours. We saw that on proposals to dedicate greater resources to homeland security, a Medicare prescription drug benefit, and a real, enforceable patients' bill of rights.

The proposals we are introducing today recognize that the American people have real concerns about their security, and that Republicans and the Bush administration have not done enough to address those concerns.

But they also recognize that security means more than national security, and homeland security. It means economic security, retirement security, and the security of knowing that our children are getting a good education, and that, if you get sick, health care is available and affordable. It means giving people who work fulltime the security of knowing they can earn a decent wage—whether they work on a farm, in a factory, or at a fast-food restaurant. It is the security of knowing that our air is safe to breathe and our water is

safe to drink, that America is living up to its commitment to civil rights, and that we are keeping our promises to our veterans.

Democrats are committed to tackling terrorism abroad, and making our country more secure.

One of our first priorities will be to make Americans safer by enhancing protections for our ports, borders, food and water supplies, and chemical and nuclear plants.

We are introducing a bill to commit real resources to doing all of those things, and to hiring more police and first responders and providing them the tools and training to do the difficult jobs we are now asking them to do.

We also recognize that national strength also depends on economic strength, and in the last 2 years, America's economy has weakened. In the coming weeks, we will put forward our ideas for how best to stimulate the economy in the short term.

But, in the long term, one of the most important things we can do is give people greater confidence that their private pensions will be there for them. That is why another of our leadership bills is one to strengthen pension protections, expand pension coverage, and crack down on rogue corporations.

It has been said that almost every problem any society faces can be solved with two things: good health, and a good education—and we have bills in each of those areas.

The Right Start for Children Act makes Head Start fully available for 4- and 5-year-olds, and increases availability for infants and toddlers. It will help improve childcare quality, make childcare more affordable for 1 million additional children, and strengthen child nutrition programs to reduce child hunger.

The Educational Excellence for All Learners Act builds on that foundation by improving education every step of the way—from kindergarten, to college, to lifelong learning. It makes sure that we match the real reforms we passed last year with the real resources they demand. It will help us recruit, hire, and train qualified teachers, build new schools, and make college and job training more affordable and more available.

President Bush pledged to leave no child behind, and then proposed more than a billion dollars of education cuts. We are proposing to put our money where the Republicans' mouths are—and help secure a good start, a good education, and good prospects for all Americans.

When it comes to health care, it was an outrage that 40 million Americans were uninsured 2 years ago. In the past year, over 1 million more Americans have lost health insurance. And those who are lucky enough to have health insurance are seeing their premiums skyrocket.

With the Health Care Coverage Expansion and Quality Improvement Act, we hope to reduce the number of uninsured by making health care coverage more available to small businesses, parents of children eligible for