

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 13

At the request of Mr. KYL, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) were added as cosponsors of S. 13, a bill to provide financial security to family farm and small business owners while by ending the unfair practice of taxing someone at death.

S. 56

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 56, a bill to restore health care coverage to retired members of the uniformed services.

S. 150

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 150, a bill to make permanent the moratorium on taxes on Internet access and multiple and discriminatory taxes on electronic commerce imposed by the Internet Tax Freedom Act.

S. 251

At the request of Mr. LOTT, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. THOMAS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 251, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 4.3-cent motor fuel excise taxes on railroads and inland waterway transportation which remain in the general fund of the Treasury.

S. 252

At the request of Mr. THOMAS, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 252, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide special rules relating to the replacement of livestock sold on account of weather-related conditions.

S. 253

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) were added as cosponsors of S. 253, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to exempt qualified current and former law enforcement officers from State laws prohibiting the carrying of concealed handguns.

S. 267

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 267, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a deferral of tax on gain from the sale of telecommunications businesses in specific circumstances or a tax credit and other incentives to promote diversity of ownership in telecommunications businesses.

S. 271

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 271, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an additional advance refunding of bonds originally issued to finance governmental facilities used for essential governmental functions.

S. 287

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 287, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that a deduction equal to fair market value shall be allowed for charitable contributions of literary, musical, artistic, or scholarly compositions created by the donor.

S. 300

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 300, a bill to award a congressional gold medal to Jackie Robinson (posthumously), in recognition of his many contributions to the Nation, and to express the sense of Congress that there should be a national day in recognition of Jackie Robinson.

S. 300

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 300, supra.

S. 330

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 330, a bill to further the protection and recognition of veterans' memorials, and for other purposes.

S. 338

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) were added as cosponsors of S. 338, a bill to protect the flying public's safety and security by requiring that the air traffic control system remain a Government function.

S. 344

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 344, a bill expressing the policy of the United States regarding the United States relationship with Native Hawaiians and to provide a process for the recognition by the United States of the Native Hawaiian governing entity, and for other purposes.

S. 361

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) were added as cosponsors of S. 361, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow for an energy efficient appliance credit.

S. 392

At the request of Mr. REID, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 392, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive both military retired pay by

reason of their years of military service and disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability.

S. 392

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 392, supra.

S. 412

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 412, a bill to amend the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 to extend and modify the reimbursement of State and local funds expended for emergency health services furnished to undocumented aliens.

S. 457

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 457, a bill to remove the limitation on the use of funds to require a farm to feed livestock with organically produced feed to be certified as an organic farm.

S. CON. RES. 5

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 5, a concurrent resolution expressing the support for the celebration in 2004 of the 150th anniversary of the Grand Excursion of 1854.

S. CON. RES. 7

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 7, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the sharp escalation of anti-Semitic violence within many participating States of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) is of profound concern and efforts should be undertaken to prevent future occurrences.

S. CON. RES. 8

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 8, a concurrent resolution designating the second week in May each year as "National Visiting Nurse Association Week".

S. RES. 24

At the request of Mr. BYRD, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 24, a resolution designating the week beginning May 4, 2003, as "National Correctional Officers and Employees Week".

S. RES. 46

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN), the Senator from New

Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 46, a resolution designating March 31, 2003, as "National Civilian Conservation Corps Day".

S. RES. 48

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. THOMAS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 48, a resolution designating April 2003 as "Financial Literacy for Youth Month".

S. RES. 67

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 67, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that Alan Greenspan, the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, should be recognized for his outstanding leadership of the Federal Reserve, his exemplary conduct as Federal Reserve chairman, and his commitment as a public servant.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. NICKLES (for himself and Mr. MILLER) (by request):

S. 2. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide additional tax incentives to encourage economic growth; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, today I am sending to the desk a bill by myself and Senator MILLER to amend the IRS Code. It is a bill to provide jobs and economic growth for our country.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will be received and appropriately referred.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, this bill Senator MILLER and I are introducing is the President's economic and growth package. This is a package the President has put together that would help American families. This is a package that is profamilial and progrowth. It is a bill that will create jobs. It is a bill that will create an incentive to invest. It is a bill to eliminate unfair punitive taxes on corporate earnings that are distributed to the owners of the corporation. It is a bill that will help stimulate and grow our economy.

I compliment the President for his work in proposing this. I am happy to introduce it. Let me talk about a couple of the provisions of the bill.

This bill will expand the 10-percent bracket. This is to help people of all incomes. But the lowest income people will be the true beneficiaries of this package. It will accelerate reductions in the individual income tax rates that were passed in 2001. You might remember the 2001 tax bill that we passed which had individual rate reductions

phased in over the years. There was a 1 percent reduction in most of the rates in 2004, and another percent reduction in 2006. These are accelerated to 2003.

It means that the maximum personal income tax bracket would be 35 percent instead of the present 38.6 percent. It means that individuals would not have to pay taxes at rates greater than corporations. The bulk of the benefit of this will come to individuals who are self-employed, individuals who are sole proprietors, and individuals who own or operate their own business. They will receive the bulk of the benefit of this rate reduction. Some people may want to demagog some of the estimates that benefit primarily the wealthy. I disagree.

We also might keep in perspective that when President Clinton was elected, the maximum rate was 31 percent. He increased it to 39.4 percent. When we totally implement President Bush's tax reduction, the maximum rate will be 35 percent, which is still significantly higher than the 31 percent just 10 years ago.

The President's proposal that we are introducing today would also accelerate the reduction in the marriage penalty. This is a very big item to help married couples reduce their taxes. The net impact of this is it would double the 15-percent bracket that individuals have for couples.

To give you an example, individuals presently pay 15 percent, I believe, on income up to about \$28,000. But couples have to start paying a 28-percent or 27-percent bracket when they have income above \$47,000. We say that instead of paying 27 percent for taxable income above \$47,000, no, that should be double the individual amount. So couples don't have to pay above the 15-percent bracket unless their income exceeds \$56,000.

It is not very complicated. Couples should have for the 15-percent bracket twice what individuals have. Individuals pay 15 percent up to \$28,000. So we doubled that amount for couples. The net impact of that is you pay 15 percent instead of 27 percent for a total of about \$9,000. It saves couples a total of \$1,022. If the couples have two children, they would get additional child credit. We increase the child credit, which is presently \$600, to \$1,000. That is an increase of \$400 per child. If you have two children, that is \$800 of tax credit—not deductions, tax credit. It reduces your tax bill by \$800.

If you have a taxable income of \$56,000, you also get the \$1,122 of marriage penalty relief. You get \$100 savings from the 10-percent bracket expansion. Total tax relief for a family that has taxable income of \$56,800 totals over \$2,000. Actually, it is \$2,022. That is about a 22-percent tax cut for middle-income families. That will help thousands—millions—of families all across the country.

Also, this bill would eliminate the double taxation on corporate earnings. Presently, in the United States, unfor-

tunately, unbelievably, we tax corporate earnings that are distributed to the owners more than almost any other country in the world. Only one country, Japan, taxes corporate earnings distributed to the owners higher than the United States.

Our combined tax rate of 35 percent corporate and the individual tax percentage, depending on the individual's income tax bracket—it could be 15 percent, it could be 30 percent, it could be 38.6 percent—if you add the 38.6 percent plus the 35 percent, it is over 70 percent. If it is 30 percent for the individual rate, and the corporation rate is 35, it is 65 percent. So for a corporation that makes \$1,000 and wants to distribute that to the owners, the Federal Government gets 65 percent; and the beneficiary, the owner of the company, gets 35 percent. That is absurd. That is embarrassing. That is indefensible. And countless people—economists, the President, candidates and others—said we should eliminate this unfair double taxation of dividends.

The President has come up with a proposal to do that. I am happy to introduce it for him. I urge my colleagues—before they demagog it, before they castigate it—to look at the facts.

Does it really make sense for us to be taxing corporate distributions to all owners—incidentally, the majority of owners are senior citizens—does it really make sense for us to be taxing these proceeds higher than any other country in the world but one? It makes no sense.

Does it really make sense to have the Tax Code skewed to where it really is beneficial to go into debt because you can expense your interest expense? But, oh, yes, if you go the equity route, you have to pay taxes on anything that is generated in the company. And the individual who receives the benefits pays taxes, so the Government gets two-thirds of the money, two-thirds of the distribution. That does not make sense. It discourages investment. It encourages debt. Not a good corporate policy.

Present law encourages a lot of corporate shenanigans and corporate games trying to get around taxes when they realize that such a great percentage of the distribution to owners is going to be paid in taxes—"Let's figure out other ways." Maybe they do it through bonuses, but they might do it through all kinds of schemes. And we have seen some of those.

This would be great corporate reform, very positive, well-needed reform, and long overdue—long overdue.

In this package that the President has proposed, it also has something I am very much in favor of: expensing for small business. I used to have a small business. But it triples the amount a small businessperson can expense from \$25,000 to \$75,000. In other words, if they write a check for that amount, they can expense it in the year that the check is written. That