

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 191

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. CHAFEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 191, a bill to extend certain trade preferences to certain least-developed countries, and for other purposes.

S. 211

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 211, a bill to facilitate nationwide availability of 2-1-1 telephone service for information and referral on human services, volunteer services, and for other purposes.

S. 595

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 595, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the work opportunity credit and the welfare-to-work credit.

S. 722

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 722, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the tax on beer to its pre-1991 level.

S. 759

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 759, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make higher education more affordable, and for other purposes.

S. 769

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 769, a bill to enhance compliance assistance for small businesses.

S. 908

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 908, a bill to allow Congress, State legislatures, and regulatory agencies to determine appropriate laws, rules, and regulations to address the problems of weight gain, obesity, and health conditions associated with weight gain or obesity.

S. 1172

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1172, a bill to provide for programs to increase the awareness and knowledge of women and health care providers with respect to gynecologic cancers.

S. 1236

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) were added as cosponsors of S. 1236, a bill to ensure the availability of spectrum to amateur radio operators.

S. 1294

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from South

Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1294, a bill to amend the Telecommunications Act of 1996 to preserve and protect the ability of local governments to provide broadband capability and services.

S. 1317

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1317, a bill to provide for the collection and maintenance of cord blood units for the treatment of patients and research, and to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Bone Marrow and Cord Blood Cell Transplantation Program to increase the number of transplants for recipients suitable matched to donors of bone marrow and cord blood.

S. 1358

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1358, a bill to protect scientific integrity in Federal research and policymaking.

S. 1388

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1388, a bill to amend chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the Regulatory Flexibility Act), to ensure complete analysis of potential impacts on small entities of rules, and for other purposes.

S. 1418

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1418, a bill to enhance the adoption of a nationwide interoperable health information technology system and to improve the quality and reduce the costs of health care in the United States.

S. 1440

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1440, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage for cardiac rehabilitation and pulmonary rehabilitation services.

S. 1504

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1504, a bill to establish a market driven telecommunications marketplace, to eliminate government managed competition of existing communication service, and to provide parity between functionally equivalent services.

S. 1507

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1507, a bill to protect children from Internet pornography and support law enforcement and other efforts to combat Internet and pornography-related crimes against children.

S. 1512

At the request of Mr. SARBANES, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1512, a bill to grant a Federal charter to Korean War Veterans Association, Incorporated.

S. 1538

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1538, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the incentives for the construction and renovation of public schools.

S. 1585

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1585, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to reduce the costs of prescription drugs for enrollees of medicaid managed care organizations by extending the discounts offered under fee-for-service medicaid to such organizations.

S. 1587

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1587, a bill to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to permit qualifying States to use a portion of their allotments under the State children's health insurance program for any fiscal year for certain medicaid expenditures.

S. 1716

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1716, a bill to provide emergency health care relief for survivors of Hurricane Katrina, and for other purposes.

S. 1721

At the request of Mr. VOINOVICH, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1721, a bill to amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to extend the authorization for certain national heritage areas, and for other purposes.

S. 1726

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1726, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 324 Main Street in Grambling, Louisiana, shall be known and designated as the "Coach Eddie Robinson Post Office Building".

S. 1753

At the request of Mr. DEMINT, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1753, a bill to establish a unified national hazard alert system, and for other purposes.

S. 1774

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr.

BENNETT) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) were added as cosponsors of S. 1774, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the expansion, intensification, and coordination of the activities of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute with respect to research on pulmonary hypertension.

S. 1787

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1787, a bill to provide bankruptcy relief for victims of natural disasters, and for other purposes.

S. 1798

At the request of Mr. CORZINE, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1798, a bill to amend titles XI and XVIII of the Social Security Act to prohibit outbound call telemarketing to individuals eligible to receive benefits under title XVIII of such Act.

S. 1804

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1804, a bill to provide emergency assistance to agricultural producers who have suffered losses as a result of drought, Hurricane Katrina, and other natural disasters occurring during 2005, and for other purposes.

S. 1808

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 1808, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to improve the qualified medicare beneficiary (OMB) and specified low-income medicare beneficiary (SLMB) programs within the medicaid program.

S.J. RES. 25

At the request of Mr. TALENT, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 25, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to authorize the President to reduce or disapprove any appropriation in any bill presented by Congress.

S. RES. 180

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 180, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of a National Epidermolysis Bullosa Awareness Week to raise public awareness and understanding of the disease and to foster understanding of the impact of the disease on patients and their families.

AMENDMENT NO. 1881

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms.

COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1881 intended to be proposed to S. 1042, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1911

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. CHAFEE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1911 proposed to H.R. 2863, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1929

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1929 proposed to H.R. 2863, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2047

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2047 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2863, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

S. 1826. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit to encourage employers to offer flexible and phased work opportunities to older workers, to expand the credit for dependent care expenses to cover eldercare expenses, to extend COBRA coverage for certain older workers who lose health insurance coverage due to a reduction in work, to improve older workers' access to job training services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss an issue that will greatly affect our Nation's aging population, workforce, and economy: the need to expand opportunities for older Americans to continue working into their later years if they so choose.

As older Americans live longer and healthier lives, many are planning to work longer. According to a recent survey, 80 percent of baby boomers expect to work past traditional retirement age. Some may recognize the physical and mental benefits of work, while some may need the additional income to remain financially secure. Whatever

the reason people decide to stay on the job, it's time to change the way our Nation thinks about retirement. A one-size-fits-all retirement will no longer match the very different plans that seniors and baby boomers have for their later years.

Rethinking retirement is also vital to our Nation's economic future. By 2030, businesses could face a labor force shortage of 35 million workers, and the projected slowdown in labor force growth could translate into lower economic growth and living standards. However, we can soften the potentially serious impact of these trends if we develop policies that expand opportunities for older Americans to work longer.

Today, we are taking a first step by introducing The Older Worker Opportunity Act. This legislation addresses a variety of issues that affect older workers and employers: workplace flexibility, pensions, health insurance coverage, job training, and caregiving needs. Back in April, as ranking member of the Aging Committee, I chaired a hearing on older workers which identified barriers and disincentives to working longer. This legislation specifically targets those.

First, today's workplace rarely offers flexible and part-time work arrangements for older workers. Most older workers would choose to work past traditional retirement age, but would prefer to gradually transition into retirement instead of fully retiring at a traditional retirement age.

To encourage employers to offer flexible and part-time work arrangements, we propose a tax credit for employers that give their older workers such opportunities while protecting them from the loss of health or pension benefits. Our aim is to encourage more workplace flexibility, which would benefit both older workers and employers through increased productivity and job retention.

Second, the bill provides an extra safety net for older workers who reduce their work but whose employers do not keep them on their health plan. In those cases, of course, the employer would not qualify for the tax credit we are offering. However, we would extend COBRA coverage from 18 to 36 months for their workers from the age of 62 until they are eligible for Medicare.

Third, one major reason why older workers exit the workforce is the need to care for aging family members. Older workers who are also caregivers often face a significant loss of earnings and retirement income, and their employers lose up to \$29 billion per year in lost work time and productivity. To help older workers balance the demands of work and caregiving, and to help employers by increasing productivity and reducing turnover costs, we propose expanding the dependent care credit to cover the care of chronically ill family members.

Fourth, as GAO has found, job training programs are often discouraged