

solar energy property and qualified fuel cell property, and for other purposes.

S. 2819

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2819, a bill to amend part C of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a minimum payment rate by Medicare Advantage organizations for services furnished by a critical access hospital and a rural health clinic under the Medicare program.

S. 3519

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. THOMAS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3519, a bill to reform the State inspection of meat and poultry in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 3590

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3590, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to delay the effective date of the amendments made by the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 requiring documentation evidencing citizenship or nationality as a condition for receipt of medical assistance under the Medicaid program.

S. 3634

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3634, a bill to amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 to improve the material control and accounting and data management systems used by civilian nuclear power reactors to better account for spent nuclear fuel and reduce the risks associated with the handling of those materials.

S. 3680

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3680, a bill to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to reauthorize and expand the New Markets Venture Capital Program, and for other purposes.

S. 3681

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) were added as cosponsors of S. 3681, a bill to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 to provide that manure shall not be considered to be a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.

S. 3682

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3682, a bill to establish the America's Opportunity Scholarships for Kids Program.

S. 3697

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3697, a bill to amend title

XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish Medicare Health Savings Accounts.

S. 3711

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) were added as cosponsors of S. 3711, a bill to enhance the energy independence and security of the United States by providing for exploration, development, and production activities for mineral resources in the Gulf of Mexico, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. TALENT, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3711, *supra*.

S. 3744

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3744, a bill to establish the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Program.

S. 3754

At the request of Mr. MARTINEZ, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3754, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals a refundable credit against income tax for the purchase of private health insurance, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 97

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 97, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that it is the goal of the United States that, not later than January 1, 2025, the agricultural, forestry, and working land of the United States should provide from renewable resources not less than 25 percent of the total energy consumed in the United States and continue to produce safe, abundant, and affordable food, feed, and fiber.

S. CON. RES. 113

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 113, a concurrent resolution congratulating the Magen David Adom Society in Israel for achieving full membership in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 113, *supra*.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. FEINGOLD, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 3765. A bill to designate Lebanon under section 244(b) of the Immigration and Naturalization Act to permit nationals of Lebanon to be granted temporary protected status in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Lebanese Temporary Protected Status Act of 2006.

I thank Senator JOHN SUNUNU, a Republican from New Hampshire, and Senator RUSS FEINGOLD, a Democrat from Wisconsin, for joining me as original cosponsors of this bipartisan legislation.

I come to the floor today with a heavy heart. The attacks by the terrorist organization Hezbollah against the State of Israel have led to ongoing hostilities in the Middle East. The hostilities have already cost many innocent Israeli and Lebanese lives, but yesterday was a particularly tragic day. This morning, as I woke up in Springfield, IL, and pulled up the local newspapers. There on the front page of the Chicago Tribune was a heart-breaking photograph of a Lebanese aid worker carrying the lifeless body of a child out of the rubble from the events of yesterday. Over 50 innocent Lebanese civilians, including dozens of children, perished in the southern Lebanese town of Qana.

I join my colleagues and all Americans in offering my heartfelt condolences to Prime Minister Siniora and to the people of Lebanon on the loss of these innocent lives. The victims and their families are in our thoughts and prayers.

Lives have been lost on both sides of the border, but we know it is particularly dangerous at this moment in Lebanon.

In reflecting on the deaths of hundreds of innocent civilians in recent weeks, Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Siniora asked:

Is the value of human life less in Lebanon than that of citizens elsewhere? Are we children of a lesser God?

The Lebanese people are not children of a lesser God. We are all children of the same God and we are all equal in God's eyes. Christians, Jews, and Muslims—we are all children of Abraham. We mourn the loss of every innocent life lost in the Israeli-Arab conflict, whether Israeli, Palestinian, or Lebanese.

Enacting the Lebanese Temporary Protected Status Act of 2006 is a modest, but important, step that will help alleviate the suffering of innocent Lebanese people. This legislation would make Lebanese nationals who are currently residing in the United States eligible for temporary protected status for an initial 12-month period.

Temporary protected status allows nationals of another country who are visiting the United States to remain here temporarily if returning to their country would pose a serious threat to their personal safety. Tragically, Lebanon faces just such a situation today.

There is an ongoing urgent humanitarian crisis in Lebanon. The United Nations estimates that 700,000 people have been displaced from their homes, almost 20 percent of the population of that nation. According to Catholic Relief Services:

Many of those who have been displaced have taken refuge in mosques, churches and schools. The stocks of basic food and relief items, including much needed medicines, are dwindling.

The U.N. said:

There has been widespread damage to infrastructure with hospitals, schools, roads, bridges, fuel storage depots, airports and seaports sustaining damage. This, of course, has severe implications on the ability to deliver humanitarian assistance to those most in need. In addition, prices of even basic necessities have skyrocketed.

U.N. emergency relief coordinator Jan Egeland has called the crisis, "The hour of greatest need for the Lebanese people."

Think of the images of thousands of frightened Americans trying desperately to escape the violence in Lebanon. Thankfully, many who have sought to escape have managed to do so. Unfortunately, unknown numbers of Americans still remain trapped.

Many Americans traveled to Lebanon this summer to spend time with relatives. This bipartisan bill would assist Lebanese who have traveled to the United States for similar reasons. They might have come here to visit family, to study, or to work. Now they face the prospect of being told they must return to this war zone. If conditions in Lebanon are so unsafe that we were forced to evacuate American citizens, innocent Lebanese who are visiting in the United States should be permitted to remain here until conditions in Lebanon improve.

Granting temporary protected status to Lebanese nationals who are currently in the United States is consistent with America's national interest.

At this delicate moment in relations between the United States and the Middle East, giving temporary protected status to Lebanon will send a positive signal about United States concern for the suffering of innocent Lebanese civilians.

Granting temporary protected status would also assist the fragile Lebanese Government by delaying the return of thousands of people who might be unable to return to their homes and would find themselves arriving back in their country only to become refugees.

The efforts of Prime Minister Siniora and millions of other Lebanese to build a sovereign and democratic Lebanon deserve the respect and continued support of the United States. Granting temporary protected status to Lebanese citizens now in the United States would take the pressure off their Government as it struggles to meet its many new challenges.

This would not be the first time we have done this. The United States extended temporary protected status to

the people of Lebanon from March 1991 to March 1993. Before Congress created temporary protected status in 1990, we granted something called extended voluntary departure to provide blanket relief from deportation to Lebanese nationals during the height of the Lebanese civil war.

Granting this type of relief will not endanger our security. The Government can deny or withdraw temporary protected status from any individual who might do harm to our Nation. Individuals convicted of serious crimes who are a threat to national security, such as suspected members of Hezbollah, are automatically ineligible for this status. The Department of Homeland Security may withdraw temporary protected status any time it finds an individual poses any threat to our country. So it isn't a blank check.

Nor is temporary protected status a backdoor to U.S. citizenship. Aliens who are granted this status are not eligible to become legal permanent residents in this country.

Granting this temporary protected status to Lebanon is consistent with American values. The people of Lebanon face a grave humanitarian crisis and we have a tradition in this country of providing safe haven to people in such circumstances.

We must all work to a resolution to the current hostilities that creates lasting peace and security for both Israel and for Lebanon. In the meantime, let us provide a safe haven to Lebanese who are already within the United States while we strive for these larger goals.

I urge my colleagues to support the Lebanese Temporary Protected Status Act of 2006.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3765

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "Lebanese Temporary Protected Status Act of 2006".

**SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

It is the sense of Congress that, due to the hostilities in Lebanon, Lebanon qualifies for designation under subparagraphs (A) and (C) of section 244(b)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(1)), pursuant to which Lebanese nationals would be eligible for temporary protected status in the United States.

**SEC. 3. DESIGNATION FOR PURPOSES OF GRANTING TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS.**

(a) DESIGNATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a), Lebanon shall be treated as if it had been designated under subsection (b) of that section, subject to the provisions of this section.

(2) PERIOD OF DESIGNATION.—The initial period of the designation under paragraph (1) shall begin on the date of the enactment of this Act and shall remain in effect for 1 year.

(b) ALIENS ELIGIBLE.—An alien who is a national of Lebanon shall be deemed to satisfy the requirements of section 244(c)(1) of such Act only if the alien—

(1) has been continuously physically present in the United States since the date of the enactment of this Act;

(2) is admissible to the United States as an immigrant, except as otherwise provided under section 244(c)(2)(A) of such Act;

(3) is not ineligible for temporary protected status under section 244(c)(2)(B) of such Act; and

(4) registers for temporary protected status in a manner established by the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(c) CONSENT TO TRAVEL ABROAD.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall give an alien granted temporary protected status pursuant to the designation made under subsection (a) prior consent to travel abroad under section 244(f)(3) of such Act if the alien establishes to the satisfaction of the Secretary that emergency and extenuating circumstances beyond the control of the alien require the alien to depart for a brief, temporary trip abroad. An alien returning to the United States in accordance with such an authorization shall be given the same treatment as any other returning alien provided temporary protected status under section 244 of such Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 545—RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF WILL KEITH KELLOGG

Ms. STABENOW (herself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. CHAMBLISS, and Mr. LEVIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the committee on the Judiciary:

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. RES. 545

Whereas Will Keith Kellogg was born on April 7, 1860, and died at the age of 91 on October 6, 1951;

Whereas W.K. Kellogg believed that—

(1) a proper diet plays an important role in maintaining a healthy lifestyle; and

(2) breakfast is the most important meal of the day;

Whereas W.K. Kellogg developed the now world-famous Kellogg's Corn Flakes cereal in his Battle Creek, Michigan, production facility on April 1, 1906;

Whereas, for 100 years, the Kellogg Company has provided citizens of the United States and countries around the world with nutritious food products;

Whereas, throughout its development, the Kellogg Company has set milestones in consumer awareness of proper nutrition by—

(1) becoming the first company to include a nutrition facts label on its ever-changing and innovative packaging; and

(2) adhering to the strict values of quality and health consciousness that W.K. Kellogg had always valued;

Whereas, while the citizens of the United States struggled during the time of economic depression and stagnation during the 1930's, W.K. Kellogg famously announced "I'll invest my money in people.;"

Whereas W.K. Kellogg started the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to operate separately from the Kellogg Company, and led the foundation by adhering to the guiding principle of "helping people to help themselves";