

grade 12, to provide for the assessment of student proficiency benchmarked against such standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CRAIG (for himself and Mr. AKAKA):

S. 225. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the number of individuals qualifying for retroactive benefits from traumatic injury protection coverage under Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 226. A bill to direct the Inspector General of the Department of Justice to submit semi-annual reports regarding settlements relating to false claims and fraud against the Federal Government; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. ALLARD (for himself and Mr. SALAZAR):

S. 227. A bill to establish the Granada Relocation Center National Historic Site as an affiliated unit of the National Park System; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself, Mr. STEVENS, and Mr. ALEXANDER):

S. 228. A bill to establish a small business child care grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DOMENICI (for himself and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. 229. A bill to redesignate a Federal building in Albuquerque, New Mexico, as the "Raymond G. Murphy Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 230. A bill to provide greater transparency in the legislative process; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. OBAMA, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KOHL, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, and Mr. SALAZAR):

S. 231. A bill to authorize the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program at fiscal year 2006 levels through 2012; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 232. A bill to make permanent the authorization for watershed restoration and enhancement agreements; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. KERRY):

S. 233. A bill to prohibit the use of funds for an escalation of United States military forces in Iraq above the numbers existing as of January 9, 2007; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 234. A bill to require the FCC to issue a final order regarding television white spaces; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1, a bill to provide greater transparency in the legislative process.

S. 5

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr.

CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for human embryonic stem cell research.

S. 80

At the request of Mr. STEVENS, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 80, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for 8 weeks of paid leave for Federal employees giving birth and for other purposes.

S. 85

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 85, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to clarify that territories and Indian tribes are eligible to receive grants for confronting the use of methamphetamine.

S. 95

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 95, a bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to ensure that every uninsured child in America has health insurance coverage, and for other purposes.

S. 105

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 105, a bill to prohibit the spouse of a Member of Congress previously employed as a lobbyist from lobbying the Member after the Member is elected.

S. 113

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI), the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) were added as cosponsors of S. 113, a bill to make appropriations for military construction and family housing projects for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2007.

S. 138

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 138, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to apply the joint return limitation for capital gains exclusion to certain post-marriage sales of principal residences by surviving spouses.

S. 143

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 143, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the deduction of State and local general sales taxes.

S. 147

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Maryland

(Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 147, a bill to empower women in Afghanistan, and for other purposes.

S. 184

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 184, a bill to provide improved rail and surface transportation security.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 206. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions; to the Committee on Finance.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today with my colleague, Senator COLLINS, to introduce legislation that protects the retirement benefits earned by public employees and eliminates barriers which discourage many Americans from pursuing careers in public service. This bill will repeal two provisions of the Social Security Act—the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision—which unfairly reduce the retirement benefits earned by public employees such as teachers, police officers, and firefighters.

The Government Pension Offset reduces a public employee's Social Security spousal or survivor benefits by an amount equal to two-thirds of his or her public pension.

Take the case of a widowed, retired police officer who receives a public pension of \$600 per month. His job in the local police department was not covered by Social Security, yet his wife's private-sector employment was. An amount equal to two-thirds of his public pension, or \$400 each month, would be cut from his Social Security survivor benefits. If this individual is eligible for \$500 in survivor benefits, the Government Pension Offset provision would reduce his monthly benefits to \$100.

In most cases, the Government Pension Offset eliminates the spousal benefit for which an individual qualifies. In fact, 9 out of 10 public employees affected by the Government Pension Offset lose their entire spousal benefit, even though their spouse paid Social Security taxes for many years.

The Windfall Elimination Provision reduces Social Security benefits by up to 50 percent for retirees who have paid into Social Security and also receive a public pension, such as from a teacher retirement fund.

While the reforms that led to the creation of the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision were meant to prevent public employees from being unduly enriched, the