

seasonal workers each year. The island's 500 year-round residents cannot supply the workforce necessary for peak season employment levels; and

Whereas, foreign workers supplement the seasonal staff needs in a host of our tourism and recreation destinations. Many of these employees are in our country under the H2B visa program; and

Whereas, all workers under the H2B visa program are here legally, are tracked by the federal government to ensure they are doing the work prescribed under their visa, and are paid under federally prescribed wage scales; and

Whereas, according to the Michigan Travel Commission, the travel and tourism industry is a \$17.5 billion industry in the state of Michigan, contributing \$971 million annually to the state treasury. This industry is dependent upon seasonal workers in order to do business; and

Whereas, recently, the Congress of the United States took action to help alleviate problems with the H2B visa program by capping the number of visas available at 66,000 but also exempting workers who already have H2B visas. This action ensured that there is enough of a workforce available for those industries that depend on seasonal workers; and

Whereas, currently, there is a sunset in the law at the federal level that would remove the returning worker exemption. As of September 30, 2007, every returning worker would again be considered a new worker and be forced to apply under the 66,000 visa limit. This cap had been reached for each of the previous few years before Congress took action, just as the national economy has surged and more and more people are traveling. This cap also distorted hiring patterns across the nation, as employers are forced to put on workers far beyond service needs to help assure that they will have the employees they need when their season begins; and

Whereas, legislation has been introduced in the Congress of the United States to revise the H2B visa program. The measure would extend the H2B returning worker exemption by removing the sunset language from current law. Clearly, this is an issue that needs prompt action: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to continue exempting returning workers from the cap on H2B visas; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-246. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan urging Congress to reestablish medical care for certain veterans whose income and disability status disqualified them for medical care as of January 17, 2003; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 175

Whereas, we have been at war for nearly six years since the September 11th terrorist attacks on our soil. During this time, American military personnel have served around the world in combat. The wounds and illnesses that they may endure as the result of this service in our defense could affect them for a lifetime. It is our responsibility as a nation to honor their service and sacrifice by doing all we can to restore their health and opportunities in civilian life; and

Whereas, beginning January 17, 2003, veterans with income above certain levels and who have no service-connected disability

have been ineligible for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical care. These Priority 8 category veterans may lack other sources of health care, and so ineligibility for VA health care could be a threat to their long-term health. Even veterans without evident war-related injuries or illnesses could have hidden health issues that can evolve into serious problems. Infections or viruses from serving in foreign lands might not reveal themselves until later in life. In addition, veterans with combat wounds such as traumatic brain injury (TSI) from blast effects or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) may not display symptoms for years. Without early access to the VA healthcare system, veterans may not have the benefits of medical monitoring and early intervention in developing health issues; and

Whereas, Congress has before it two bills that would restore VA eligibility to these Priority 8 veterans under current standards with income levels too high and no service-connected disability. In the House of Representatives, HR 463 would restore this eligibility, while in the Senate, S 1147 has been introduced. We owe it to our veterans to act on this legislation to ensure that any long-term problems that may not be currently evident can be identified and treated in a timely manner. Providing quality health care is part of our duty as a nation to our veterans, and there is no excuse for failing to right this mistake: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we memorialize the United States Congress to reestablish medical care for certain veterans whose income and disability status disqualified them for Department of Veterans Affairs medical care as of January 17, 2003; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. 1845. A bill to provide for limitations in certain communications between the Department of Justice and the White House Office relating to civil and criminal investigations, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110-203).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. 2216. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the Indian employment credit and the depreciation rules for property used predominantly within an Indian reservation; read the first time.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 2217. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the taxable income limit on percentage depletion for oil and natural gas produced from marginal properties; read the first time.

By Mr. ROBERTS:

S. 2218. A bill to provide for the award of a military service medal to members of the

Armed Forces who were exposed to ionizing radiation as a result of participation in a test of atomic weapons; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. AKAKA, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. OBAMA):

S. 2219. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to deliver a meaningful benefit and lower prescription drug prices under the Medicare Program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. INOUE, and Mr. MARTINEZ):

S. 2220. A bill to amend the Outdoor Recreation Act of 1963 to authorize certain appropriations; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. SPECTER):

S. 2221. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the reporting of sales price data for implantable medical devices; to the Committee on Finance.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 507

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of S. 507, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for reimbursement of certified midwife services and to provide for more equitable reimbursement rates for certified nurse-midwife services.

S. 719

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 719, a bill to amend section 10501 of title 49, United States Code, to exclude solid waste disposal from the jurisdiction of the Surface Transportation Board.

S. 940

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 940, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the subpart F exemption for active financing income.

S. 961

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 961, a bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to provide benefits to certain individuals who served in the United States merchant marine (including the Army Transport Service and the Naval Transport Service) during World War II, and for other purposes.

S. 972

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 972, a bill to provide for the reduction of adolescent pregnancy, HIV rates, and other sexually transmitted diseases, and for other purposes.

S. 982

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, her name was added as a cosponsor of S.