

or title V of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

SA 4083. Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself and Mr. THUNE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1200, to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to revise and extend the Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. ____ . GAO STUDY AND REPORT ON PAYMENTS FOR CONTRACT HEALTH SERVICES.

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States (in this section referred to as the “Comptroller General”) shall conduct a study on the utilization of health care furnished by health care providers under the contract health services program funded by the Indian Health Service and operated by the Indian Health Service, an Indian Tribe, or a Tribal Organization (as those terms are defined in section 4 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act).

(2) ANALYSIS.—The study conducted under paragraph (1) shall include an analysis of—

(A) the amounts reimbursed under the contract health services program described in paragraph (1) for health care furnished by entities, individual providers, and suppliers, including a comparison of reimbursement for such health care through other public programs and in the private sector;

(B) barriers to accessing care under such contract health services program, including, but not limited to, barriers relating to travel distances, cultural differences, and public and private sector reluctance to furnish care to patients under such program;

(C) the adequacy of existing Federal funding for health care under such contract health services program; and

(D) any other items determined appropriate by the Comptroller General.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report on the study conducted under subsection (a), together with recommendations regarding—

(1) the appropriate level of Federal funding that should be established for health care under the contract health services program described in subsection (a)(1); and

(2) how to most efficiently utilize such funding.

(c) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study under subsection (a) and preparing the report under subsection (b), the Comptroller General shall consult with the Indian Health Service, Indian Tribes, and Tribal Organizations.

SA 4084. Mr. REID (for Mr. BIDEN) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 444, expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the strong alliance that has been forged between the United States and the Republic of Korea and congratulating Myung-Bak Lee on his election to the presidency of the Republic of Korea; as follows:

On page 2, strike “the Republic of Korea is the United States seventh largest training partner and the United States is the third largest trading partner of the Republic of Korea, with nearly \$80,000,000,000 in goods and services passing between the 2 countries each year” and insert “the economic relationship between the United States and the Republic of Korea is deep and growing and has been mutually beneficial to both countries”.

NOTICE OF HEARING

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on Water and Power of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on February 28, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. in room 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on the following bills: S. 177/H.R. 2085, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the McGee Creek Authority certain facilities of the McGee Creek Project, Oklahoma, and for other purposes; S. 1473/H.R. 1855, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Madera Irrigation District for purposes of supporting the Madera Water Supply Enhancement Project; S. 1474/H.R. 1139, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to plan, design and construct facilities to provide water for irrigation, municipal, domestic, and other uses from the Bunker Hill Groundwater Basin, Santa Ana River, California, and for other purposes; S. 1929, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, to conduct a feasibility study of water augmentation alternatives in the Sierra Vista Subwatershed; S. 2370, to clear title to certain real property in New Mexico associated with the Middle Rio Grande Project, and for other purposes; H.R. 2381, to promote Department of the Interior efforts to provide a scientific basis for the management of sediment and nutrient loss in the Upper Mississippi River Basin, and for other purposes.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by email to Gina Weinstock@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Michael Connor at (202) 224-5479 or Gina Weinstock at (202) 224-5684.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 14, 2008, at 11:10 a.m. in open session, in order to receive testimony on the strategy in Afghanistan and recent reports by the Afghanistan study group and the Atlantic Council of the United States.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 14, 2008, at 2:30 p.m. in open session, in order to receive testimony on the strategy in Afghanistan and recent reports by the Afghanistan study group and the Atlantic Council of the United States.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 14, 2008, at 10 a.m., in order to conduct a hearing entitled “The State of the United States Economy and Financial Markets.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate in order to conduct a hearing on Thursday, February 14, 2008, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. At this hearing, the Committee will hear testimony regarding the President’s fiscal year 2009 budget request for the USDA Forest Service.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 14, 2008 at 10:30 a.m. in room 406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in order to conduct a hearing entitled, “Legislative Hearing on the Marine Vessel Emissions Reduction Act of 2007, S. 1499.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 14, 2008, at 10 a.m., in room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, in order to hear testimony on “International Aspects of a Climate Change Cap and Trade Program”.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 14, 2008, at 3:45 p.m. in order to hold a committee coffee with Her Excellency Dora