

(5) Section 1623 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181; 122 Stat. 455; 10 U.S.C. 1071 note) requires the Secretary of Defense to establish a center of excellence for the prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, and rehabilitation of military eye injuries. That section also requires the Department of Defense to work with Department of Veterans Affairs, to the maximum extent practicable, as well as with public and private entities and institutions of higher learning, to develop a comprehensive plan and strategy for a Military Eye Injury Registry, which would track the diagnosis, surgical intervention, and follow up for each significant case of eye injury incurred by a member of the Armed Forces while serving on active duty.

(6) Section 1623 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 also requires the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide a cooperative program for members of the Armed Forces and veterans with traumatic eye injury by conducting research on prevention of visual dysfunctions, which is a frequent complication from Traumatic Brain Injury.

(7) On June 9, 2008, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs decided that the Vision Center of Excellence will be established in the National Capital Region and will be comprised of multiple clinical centers throughout the Nation at Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Vision Center of Excellence will be a world class vision center supporting both members of the Armed Forces and veterans;

(2) research on visual impairments related to Traumatic Brain Injury needs to be expanded, and the Vision Center of Excellence should play a key role in identifying current and future research needs;

(3) the goal of the Vision Center of Excellence is to provide all members of the Armed Forces who suffer ocular trauma or disease the most comprehensive, coordinated, progressive, and highest quality eye care possible;

(4) the Vision Center of Excellence should maximize Department of Defense, Department of Veterans Affairs, and civilian resources to ensure the most compassionate, synchronized, and professional eye care; and

(5) the Department of Defense should examine the potential benefit of screening for eye injuries when service members are screened for Traumatic Brain Injury.

(c) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

(1) REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF VISION CENTER OF EXCELLENCE.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, submit to the Committees on Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committees on Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the status of implementation of the Vision Center of Excellence. The report shall include, at a minimum, a description of the mission of the Vision Center of Excellence, the resources or funds available to fund the Vision Center of Excellence from fiscal years 2009 through 2013, and the planned programs and priorities of the Vision Center of Excellence.

(2) REPORT ON VISUAL SCREENINGS IN CONNECTION WITH TBI.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report on the feasibility and advisability of performing visual screenings on all members of the Armed Forces who experience Traumatic Brain Injury.

SA 5445. Mr. BAYH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3001, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 815. ENHANCEMENT OF BUY AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO SPECIALTY METALS CRITICAL TO NATIONAL SECURITY.

(a) INCLUSION OF HIGH PERFORMANCE MAGNETS AMONG SPECIALTY METALS.—Subsection (1) of section 2533b of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) High performance magnets.”.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—Subsection (m) of such section is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(11) The term ‘produced’, in the case of a specialty metal or high performance magnet, means melting, gas atomization, sputtering, or consolidation from powder using non-melt technology in the United States. The term does not include a rolling or finishing process such as quenching and tempering of armor plate.

“(12) The term ‘high performance magnet’ means a permanent magnet containing 10 or more percent by weight of cobalt, samarium, or nickel.”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, August 10, 2008, at 10 a.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. LEVIN. 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 Wednesday, September 10, 2008 at 10 a.m. in room 406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to hold a hearing entitled, “Improving the Federal Bridge Program: Including an Assessment of S. 3338 and H.R. 3999.”

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 10, 2008, at 10 a.m., in room 215 of Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

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

mittee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 10, 2008, at 10:30 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 10, 2008, at 2 p.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 10, 2008, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Expediency Versus Integrity: Do Assembly-Line Audits at the Defense Contract Audit Agency Waste Taxpayer Dollars?”

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled “New Strategies for Combating Violent Crime: Drawing Lessons From Recent Experience” on Wednesday, September 10, 2008, at 10 a.m., in room SD-562 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT, THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE, AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs' Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 10, 2008, at 2:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled, “Managing the Challenges of the Federal Government Transition.”

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION SAFETY, INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY, AND WATER QUALITY

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Transportation Safety, Infrastructure Security, and Water Quality, Committee on Environment and Public Works, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 10, 2008, at 3 p.m., in room 406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to hold a hearing entitled, “Quality and Environmental Impacts of Bottled Water.”

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