

and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. PRYOR:

S. 491. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to recognize the service in the reserve components of the Armed Forces of certain persons by honoring them with status as veterans under law, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. DEMINT (for himself and Mr. COBURN):

S. 492. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to prohibit Federal funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting after fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. PRYOR, and Mr. LEVIN):

S. 493. A bill to reauthorize and improve the SBIR and STTR programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 33

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 33, a bill to designate a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.

S. 69

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 69, a bill to amend the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 to exclude secondary sales, repair services, and certain vehicles from the ban on lead in children's products, and for other purposes.

S. 424

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 424, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to preserve access to ambulance services under the Medicare program.

S. 480

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 480, a bill to temporarily expand the V nonimmigrant visa category to include Haitians whose petition for a family-sponsored immigrant visa was approved on or before January 12, 2010.

S. RES. 87

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 87, a resolution designating the year of 2012 as the "International Year of Cooperatives".

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mrs.

SHAHEEN, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. PRYOR, and Mr. LEVIN):

S. 493. A bill to reauthorize and improve the SBIR and STTR programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation with my colleague and chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, Senator LANDRIEU, to reauthorize the critical Small Business Innovation Research, SBIR, and Small Business Technology Transfer, STTR, Programs. We are joined by Senators JOHN KERRY, SCOTT BROWN, JEANNE SHAHEEN, KELLY AYOTTE, BEN CARDIN, MARK PRYOR, and CARL LEVIN. Frankly, after nearly 6 years of debate and discussion, it is well past time for us to pass this legislation and set these programs on a path of certainty.

Our Nation's economic recovery is being suppressed by an inflated unemployment rate—which has been at or above 9 percent for 21 consecutive months—and, as a result, a small business community that remains uncertain about the future and unable to invest in their businesses and hire new workers. They are looking for market-based ways to create jobs with limited government intervention and unleash their innovative potential. That is why I am excited about reauthorizing the SBIR and STTR programs, which foster an environment of innovative entrepreneurship by directing more than \$2 billion annually in Federal research and development, R&D, funding to the Nation's small firms that are most likely to create jobs and commercialize their products.

Small businesses are our Nation's job generators, employing more than half of all private sector employees and creating 64 percent of the net new jobs over the past 15 years. Furthermore, small businesses are our Nation's most effective innovators, producing roughly 13 times more patents per employee than large firms—patents which are at least two times as likely to be among the top 1 percent of high-impact patents. In a budgetary environment where the Small Business Administration, SBA, will be required to do more with less funding, it is crucial that the SBIR and STTR programs—one of the strongest examples of a successful public-private partnership—be a key part of the Agency's job creation agenda.

These programs have been front and center in improving our Nation's capacity to innovate. According to a report by the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, SBIR-backed firms have been responsible for roughly 25 percent of the Nation's most crucial innovations over the past decade plus—"a powerful indication that the SBIR program has become a key force in the innovation economy of the United States."

Regrettably, SBIR and STTR expired in September 2008, and it has been subject

to a series of 10 short-term, temporary extensions since then, plaguing the programs with uncertainty and potentially dissuading some of our Nation's most promising firms from participating in them. That is why Chair LANDRIEU and I introduced the SBIR-STTR Reauthorization Act, S. 4053, at the end of last Congress after extensive negotiation and debate. This bill—which passed the Senate unanimously in December—is virtually the same legislation we are introducing today. It would reauthorize the programs for 8 years, while making critical improvements, such as increasing the allocation for SBIR from 2.5 percent of an agency's extramural research and development, R&D, budget to 3.5 percent over 10 years, and doubling the STTR allocation from 0.3 percent over 6 years. Our legislation would also codify increased award sizes of \$150,000 for phase I and \$1 million for phase II in the SBIR program, and apply those levels to the STTR program as well.

Our bill includes stringent oversight and fraud prevention measures, requiring inspectors general of participating Federal agencies to establish fraud detection measures, coordinate fraud-related information sharing between agencies, and provide fraud prevention related education and training to agencies administering the program, among other initiatives.

The SBIR-STTR Reauthorization Act also includes an unprecedented compromise on the "venture capital" issue, which has long bogged down any serious progress in reauthorizing these valuable programs. It would make firms majority owned and controlled by multiple venture capital companies eligible for up to 25 percent of SBIR funds at the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, and Department of Energy, and up to 15 percent of the funds at the remaining eight participating SBIR agencies. Our compromise has the backing of diverse stakeholders from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, National Federation of Independent Business, NFIB, and Small Business Technology Council, SBTC, to the Biotechnology Industry Organization, BIO, and the National Venture Capital Association, NVCA.

So I look forward to ensuring that this will be the Congress to once and for all reauthorize these critical nationwide programs, and I am confident that the SBIR-STTR Reauthorization Act is the best way for us to get us there.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 146. Mr. PRYOR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 23, to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 147. Mr. PRYOR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 23, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 148. Mr. PRYOR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the