

ensure that all agencies and departments of the Federal Government will lend a hand to servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

Our Nation asks a lot of military families. Military families must provide support in innumerable ways during a deployment. From child care, to paying bills, dealing with legal issues and household repairs, military families work together to deal with the absence of the servicemember. Should a servicemember return home wounded or weakened by the tolls of war, we ask military families to help take care of their son or daughter, husband or wife.

We hope and pray that all those who are sent to war will return safely to the arms of their loved ones. However, we know that this is not always the case. Since the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan began, there have been far too many funerals of talented and patriotic Oregonians who have died in service to their country.

Although nothing the Government can do will ever make up for the loss of a loved one, we do extend certain benefits to the parents of those who are killed in war. Today, along with Senators LIEBERMAN, COLLINS, AKAKA, I am introducing the Gold Star Fathers Act to update one of those benefits; the preferences for Federal hiring to ensure that the parents of fallen servicemembers have no barriers to Federal service.

The Office of Personnel Management currently allows unmarried mothers of fallen soldiers to claim a 10-point veterans' preference when applying for Federal jobs. The Gold Star Fathers Act would simply extend this preference to unmarried fathers of fallen soldiers. This legislation will expand opportunities for Gold Star families to bring their dedication, compassion, and patriotism to the Federal Government. It is my hope that this legislation can be passed quickly.

These Gold Star Mothers and Gold Star Fathers have sacrificed more than we as a country can ever hope to repay. All we can ever hope to do is to ensure that these sacrifices are never made in vain.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 514

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Gold Star Fathers Act of 2011".

SEC. 2. PREFERENCE ELIGIBLE TREATMENT FOR FATHERS OF CERTAIN PERMANENTLY DISABLED OR DECEASED VETERANS.

Section 2108(3) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking subparagraphs (F) and (G) and inserting the following:

"(F) the parent of an individual who lost his or her life under honorable conditions while serving in the armed forces during a

period named by paragraph (1)(A) of this section, if—

"(i) the spouse of that parent is totally and permanently disabled; or

"(ii) that parent, when preference is claimed, is unmarried or, if married, legally separated from his or her spouse;

"(G) the parent of a service-connected permanently and totally disabled veteran, if—

"(i) the spouse of that parent is totally and permanently disabled; or

"(ii) that parent, when preference is claimed, is unmarried or, if married, legally separated from his or her spouse; and"

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendment made by this Act shall take effect 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 94—TO EXPRESS THE SENSE OF THE SENATE IN SUPPORT OF REDUCING ITS BUDGET BY AT LEAST 5 PERCENT

Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. COATS, Mr. JOHANNIS, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. THUNE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. CORKER, and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 94

Whereas, the current level Federal spending is unsustainable and action to reverse this course should not be delayed;

Whereas, in 2010 Federal spending was nearly 24 percent of the value of all the goods and services produced in the United States;

Whereas, the Federal deficit was over \$1 trillion in fiscal year 2010;

Whereas, Federal spending is at its highest percentage since World War II;

Whereas, the Congressional Budget Office estimates if the United States maintains its current track of Federal spending, the Federal debt would reach 90 percent of the value of all the goods and services produced in the United States by 2020;

Whereas, the national debt exceeds \$13.9 trillion dollars;

Whereas, the United States borrows \$44,000 for every person in the country;

Whereas, the unemployment rate was 9.8 percent in December;

Whereas, the American people have responded to the economic downturn by making hard choices and trimming their family budgets;

Whereas, spending in the legislative branch rose nearly 50 percent over the last 10 years; and

Whereas, in order to address the nation's fiscal crisis, the Senate should lead by example and reduce its own legislative budget: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that it should lead by example and reduce the budget of the Senate by at least 5 percent.

SENATE RESOLUTION 95—INCREASING AWARENESS OF AND RECOGNIZING THE LIFE-SAVING ROLE OF OSTOMY CARE AND PROSTHETICS IN THE DAILY LIVES OF HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BURR submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 95

Whereas over 700,000 individuals in the United States, from young children to senior citizens, have an ostomy, a surgical procedure that creates an artificial opening from the abdomen to the intestines or urinary system to allow for the elimination of bodily wastes;

Whereas active duty military personnel who are wounded in battle often receive an ostomy as a result of penetrating colorectal injuries;

Whereas an ostomy procedure can be essential to many patients who suffer on a daily basis from serious, chronic, or life-threatening traumatic injury to the abdomen, or other illnesses and conditions, such as colorectal or bladder cancer, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, birth defects, or other intestinal or urinary medical conditions;

Whereas following ostomy surgery, patients may need specially-fitted medical products to manage intestinal or urinary system function, temporarily or permanently restore intestinal or urinary system function, or re-establish activities of daily living, and improve quality of life;

Whereas ostomy products are prosthetic devices prescribed by health care providers, and ostomy products are prosthetic devices, as defined in section 1861(s)(8) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(s)(8));

Whereas policy and reimbursement approaches to ostomy products may affect access for patients in need;

Whereas ostomy products are customized to the clinical needs of individual patients and are not the same as other easily interchangeable medical supplies, such as gauze or bandages;

Whereas ostomy care and prosthetics can be important to restoring function and improving quality of life for patients in need of this care;

Whereas ongoing advances and innovation in ostomy prosthetics technology can dramatically improve the lives of individuals who undergo ostomy surgery by helping to normalize the intestinal or urinary system function of such individuals, improve physical well-being, and often enable the individual to rejoin the workforce; and

Whereas Congress recognizes the importance of encouraging and facilitating the development and use of new medical technologies: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the life-saving role of ostomy care and prosthetics in the daily lives of hundreds of thousands of people in the United States;

(2) recognizes that if a surgical procedure results in a patient needing a prosthetic that manages or restores intestinal or urinary system function, specifically the control of the elimination of the body's waste products, it is important for such patient to have access to the care that will best meet the patient's needs; and

(3) encourages innovation of, and access to, medical devices that restore or improve intestinal or urinary system function of people in the United States with an ostomy.