

the protection of rights of individuals with disabilities on an equal basis with others, including individuals in other protected groups, and does not require adoption of a comparable worth framework for persons with disabilities.

(4) Article 27 of the Convention provides that States Parties shall take appropriate steps to afford to individuals with disabilities the right to equal access to equal work, including nondiscrimination in hiring and promotion of employment of persons with disabilities in the public sector. Current interpretation of Section 501 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 exempts U.S. Military Departments charged with defense of the national security from liability with regard to members of the uniformed services. The United States of America understands the obligations of Article 27 to take appropriate steps as not affecting hiring, promotion, or other terms or conditions of employment of uniformed employees in the U.S. Military Departments, and that Article 27 does not recognize rights in this regard that exceed those rights available under U.S. Federal law.

(5) The United States of America understands that the terms "disability," "persons with disabilities," and "undue burden" (terms that are not defined in the Convention), "discrimination on the basis of disability," and "reasonable accommodation" are defined for the United States of America coextensively with the definitions of such terms pursuant to relevant United States law.

(6) The United States of America understands that the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, established under Article 34 of the Convention, is authorized under Article 36 to "consider" State Party Reports and to "make such suggestions and general recommendations on the report as it may consider appropriate." Under Article 37, the committee "shall give due consideration to ways and means of enhancing national capacities for the implementation of the present Convention." The United States of America understands that the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has no authority to compel actions by states parties, and the United States of America does not consider conclusions, recommendations, or general comments issued by the committee as constituting customary international law or to be legally binding on the United States in any manner.

(7) The United States of America understands that the Convention is a non-discrimination instrument. Therefore, nothing in the Convention, including Article 25, addresses the provision of any particular health program or procedure. Rather, the Convention requires that health programs and procedures are provided to individuals with disabilities on a non-discriminatory basis.

(8) The United States of America understands that, for the United States of America, the term or principle of the "best interests of the child" as used in Article 7(2), will be applied and interpreted to be coextensive with its application and interpretation under United States law. Consistent with this understanding, nothing in Article 7 requires a change to existing United States law.

c. Declarations.—The advice and consent of the Senate to the ratification of the Convention is subject to the following declarations: The United States of America declares that the provisions of the Convention are not self-executing.

The Senate declares that, in view of the reservations to be included in the instrument of ratification, current United States law fulfills or exceeds the obligations of the Convention for the United States of America.

## 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. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 3459. A bill to amend the Department of Energy High-End Computing Revitalization Act of 2004 to improve the high-end computing research and development program of the Department of Energy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. ENZI, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 3460. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for startup businesses to use a portion of the research and development credit to offset payroll taxes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN of Ohio (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 3461. A bill to amend title IV of the Public Health Service Act to provide for a National Pediatric Research Network, including with respect to pediatric rare diseases or conditions; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. KOHL):

S. 3462. A bill to provide anti-retaliation protections for antitrust whistleblowers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. BROWN of Ohio):

S. 3463. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to reduce the incidence of diabetes among Medicare beneficiaries; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:

S. 3464. A bill to amend the Mni Wiconi Project Act of 1988 to facilitate completion of the Mni Wiconi Rural Water Supply System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin:

S.J. Res. 48. A joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service relating to the health insurance premium tax credit; to the Committee on Finance.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MANCHIN:

S. Res. 534. A resolution congratulating the Navy Dental Corps on its 100th anniversary; to the Committee on Armed Services.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 19

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 19, a bill to restore American's individual liberty by striking the Federal mandate to purchase insurance.

S. 202

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK)

was added as a cosponsor of S. 202, a bill to require a full audit of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal reserve banks by the Comptroller General of the United States before the end of 2012, and for other purposes.

S. 225

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 225, a bill to permit the disclosure of certain information for the purpose of missing child investigations.

S. 339

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 339, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions.

S. 362

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 362, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a Pancreatic Cancer Initiative, and for other purposes.

S. 678

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 678, a bill to increase the penalties for economic espionage.

S. 818

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 818, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to count a period of receipt of outpatient observation services in a hospital toward satisfying the 3-day inpatient hospital requirement for coverage of skilled nursing facility services under Medicare.

S. 845

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 845, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the logical flow of return information between partnerships, corporations, trusts, estates, and individuals to better enable each party to submit timely, accurate returns and reduce the need for extended and amended returns, to provide for modified due dates by regulation, and to conform the automatic corporate extension period to long-standing regulatory rule.

S. 847

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 847, a bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to ensure that risks from chemicals are adequately understood and managed, and for other purposes.