

obligations through 2032 and has dedicated revenues that would—even in the absence of Congressional reforms—meet three-quarters of promised benefits thereafter; and

Whereas, Social security's funding shortfall after 2032 is modest: about one-half of the cost of the Bush tax cuts of 2001 and 2003; and

Whereas, There are many policy options available to close social security's funding shortfall without cutting benefits, including eliminating the cap on earnings subject to the payroll tax, which would eliminate about 80 percent of the 75-year shortfall, or raising the payroll tax rate from 6.2 to 7.2 percent gradually over 20 years, which would eliminate one-half of the shortfall; and

Whereas, Americans prefer raising payroll taxes to cutting social security benefits by a margin of 53 percent to 36 percent; and

Whereas, Social security's modest but vital benefits, averaging just \$12,930 per year in California, are critical to the economic security of those who receive those benefits; and

Whereas, Losses of pensions, 401(k) balances, home equity, and earnings have greatly diminished the retirement income prospects of Californians; and

Whereas, The social security benefit cuts imposed in 1983 will, when fully phased in, cut benefits by roughly 25 percent; and

Whereas, Forty-seven percent of elderly Californians are struggling just to make ends meet and more than one-half of working Californians will not have saved enough to be able to maintain their standard of living in retirement; and

Whereas, Proposals to increase the social security retirement age to 69 would cut benefits by an additional 13 percent on top of the 13 percent cut that occurred when the retirement age increased from 65 to 67; and

Whereas, The physical demands of a job differ from industry to industry and, on average, the longevity of the lives of individuals differ significantly according to their level of income, education, race, and access to health care; and

Whereas, Social security belongs to the people who have worked hard all their lives and contributed to the program, and it is based on a promise that if you pay in, you and your family can collect your money when you retire, experience a severe disability, or die; and

Whereas, Medicare insures almost 4 million California seniors for health care at a fraction of the administrative costs of private plans; and

Whereas, Medicare has controlled its costs better than private insurance plans; and

Whereas, Although increasing the eligibility age for Medicare would save the federal government some money, it would add billions of dollars to what we as a country spend on health care and shift costs onto other governmental entities, businesses, and many individuals who cannot afford those costs; and

Whereas, Medicaid is a critical source of protection for over 11 million low-income children, adults, and elderly Californians, many of whom have severe disabilities or are in need of long-term care; and

Whereas, Our social security, Medicare, and Medicaid systems are fundamental to protecting against risks to which all Californians are subject; and

Whereas, Our social security, Medicare, and Medicaid systems give expression to widely held values, including caring for our families, our neighbors, and ourselves, personal responsibility, hard work, and dignity: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the California State Legislature urges the President and the Congress of the United States to ex-

clude social security, Medicare, and Medicaid from being a part of any legislation to reduce the federal deficit; and be it further

Resolved, That the California State Legislature opposes cuts to social security, Medicare and Medicaid, and calls on our state's representatives in Washington, D.C. to vote against any cuts and consider improving those systems in ways that will strengthen their protections; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON, of South Dakota, from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 534. A bill to reform the National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-82).

By Mr. WYDEN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 783. A bill to amend the Helium Act to improve helium stewardship, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-83).

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. HELLER:

S. 1379. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to consolidate the reporting obligations of the Federal Communications Commission in order to improve congressional oversight and reduce reporting burdens; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. 1380. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to ensure that on-duty time does not include waiting time at a natural gas or oil well site for certain commercial motor vehicle operators, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 1381. A bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to clarify provisions enacted by the Captive Wildlife Safety Act, to further the conservation of certain wildlife species, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. COBURN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 1382. A bill to require the Federal Government to expedite the sale of underutilized Federal real property; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 1383. A bill to provide subsidized employment for unemployed, low-income adults, provide summer employment and year-round employment opportunities for low-income youth, and carry out work-related and educational strategies and activities of demonstrated effectiveness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 1384. A bill to help ensure that all items offered for sale in any gift shop of the National Park Service or of the National Archives and Records Administration are produced in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 314

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 314, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life.

S. 338

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 338, a bill to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 to provide consistent and reliable authority for, and for the funding of, the land and water conservation fund to maximize the effectiveness of the fund for future generations, and for other purposes.

S. 360

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 360, a bill to amend the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 to expand the authorization of the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, and the Interior to provide service opportunities for young Americans; help restore the nation's natural, cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational and scenic resources; train a new generation of public land managers and enthusiasts; and promote the value of public service.

S. 411

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 411, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 425

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 425, a bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to improve the quality, health outcomes, and value of maternity care under the Medicaid and CHIP programs by developing maternity care quality measures and supporting maternity care quality collaboratives.

S. 429

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 429, a bill to enable concrete masonry products manufacturers to establish, finance, and carry out a coordinated program of research, education, and promotion to improve,