

Whereas, Predatory PAEs have a detrimental impact on the economy and innovation. PAE activities cost businesses \$29 billion directly, mostly borne by small- and medium-sized businesses; and

Whereas, The growth of patent litigation is directly tied to aggressive PAEs in recent years. In 2010, PAEs were responsible for 29 percent of patent litigation, and by 2012 PAEs represented 62 percent of all patent suits; and

Whereas, The California economy is especially vulnerable to lawsuits directed at information technology patents; and

Whereas, Federal legislation is necessary to prevent and deter abusive patent litigation; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California, jointly,* That the Legislature urges the President and the Congress of the United States to craft a balanced and workable approach to reduce incentives for and minimize unnecessary patent litigation while ensuring that legitimate patent enforcement rights are protected and maintained; 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, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the Senate, and each member of the California delegation to the United States Congress.

POM-98. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California urging the United States Congress to further amend the GI Bill of Rights to make benefits available to veterans for use as startup capital in the establishment of first businesses; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

#### ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION No. 7

Whereas, Men and women of the State of California volunteer to serve in the Armed Forces of the United States in greater numbers than those from any other state; and

Whereas, California is currently home to more than 1,800,000 veterans of our Armed Forces; and

Whereas, California veterans have been grateful recipients of the financial support of their fellow Americans through the Veterans Administration and the GI Bill; and

Whereas, The Congress of the United States passed, and President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed, the GI Bill of Rights in 1944 to support our veterans of World War II in their transition back to civilian life; and

Whereas, The Congress of the United States in 2008 added significant new benefits for those who enlisted to serve the nation in the wake of the attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001; and

Whereas, Up to 10 percent of veterans choose to start, run, and own their own businesses; and

Whereas, Over 30 percent of veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and other fronts on the war against terrorism are receiving disability ratings from the federal Veterans Administration; and

Whereas, More than five million Americans, including over one-half million Californians, served in those conflicts; and

Whereas, The State of California is the recognized national leader in the establishment and success of veteran business owner procurement support programs, and

Whereas, Veteran businesses make a significant contribution to the state's economy and serve as a source of employment for fellow veterans; and

Whereas, Finding enough capital to successfully launch a new business or buy an existing business is the largest challenge that

new business owners face: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California, jointly,* That the Legislature requests that the Congress of the United States of America further amend the GI Bill of Rights to make benefits available, with all appropriate safeguards, to all veterans for use as startup capital in the establishment of first businesses; 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, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment:

S. 1868. A bill to extend by 15 years the authority of the Secretary of Commerce to conduct the quarterly financial report program (Rept. No. 114-157).

#### 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 Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2194. A bill to promote the use of clean cookstoves and fuels to save lives, improve livelihoods, empower women, and protect the environment by creating a thriving global market for clean and efficient household cooking solutions; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 2195. A bill to prohibit the indefinite detention of persons by the United States and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. 2196. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the non-application of Medicare competitive acquisition rates to complex rehabilitative wheelchairs and accessories; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 2197. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the risk adjustment under the Medicare Advantage program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 2198. A bill to establish a grant program to encourage States to adopt certain policies and procedures relating to the transfer and possession of firearms; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 2199. A bill to require agencies to conform to concurrent resolutions when promulgating rules; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. FISCHER:

S. 2200. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to strengthen equal pay requirements; read the first time.

By Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 2201. A bill to promote international trade, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 2202. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain farming business machinery and equipment as 5-year property for purposes of depreciation; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2203. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make residents of Puerto Rico eligible for the earned income tax credit and to provide equitable treatment for residents of Puerto Rico with respect to the refundable portion of the child tax credit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 2204. A bill to respect the Constitutional entitlement to liberty by recognizing the right of an individual to have personal control over the medical assistance and treatment necessary to alleviate intolerable physical suffering; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 2205. A bill to establish a grant program to assist tribal governments in establishing tribal healing to wellness courts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CASEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. UDALL, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. Res. 292. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the availability of high-quality childcare for working parents should be increased; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. AYOTTE, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. Res. 293. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, commending domestic violence victim advocates, domestic violence victim service providers, crisis hotline staff, and first responders serving victims of domestic violence for their compassionate support of victims of domestic violence, and expressing the sense of the Senate that Congress should continue to support efforts to end domestic violence and hold perpetrators of domestic violence accountable; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. HEITKAMP, and Mr. PETERS):

S. Res. 294. A resolution designating October 26, 2015, as Day of the Deployed; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. VITTER, Mr. COONS, Mr. GARDNER, Mr.