

S. 3065

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3065, a bill to amend parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act to invest in funding prevention and family services to help keep children safe and supported at home, to ensure that children in foster care are placed in the least restrictive, most family-like, and appropriate settings, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3065, *supra*.

S. 3179

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3179, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve and extend the credit for carbon dioxide sequestration.

S. 3198

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3198, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the provision of adult day health care services for veterans.

S. 3270

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3270, a bill to prevent elder abuse and exploitation and improve the justice system's response to victims in elder abuse and exploitation cases.

S. 3297

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3297, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exemption to the individual mandate to maintain health coverage for certain individuals whose premium has increased by more than 10 percent, and for other purposes.

S. 3308

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3308, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to prohibit prescription drug plan sponsors and MA-PD organizations under the Medicare program from retroactively reducing payment on clean claims submitted by pharmacies.

S. RES. 199

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 199, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding establishing a National Strategic Agenda.

S. RES. 527

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 527, a resolution recognizing the 75th anniversary of the opening of the National Gallery of Art.

S. RES. 536

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 536, a resolution proclaiming the week of October 30 through November 5, 2016, as "National Obesity Care Week".

S. RES. 564

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 564, a resolution condemning North Korea's fifth nuclear test on September 9, 2016.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

S. 3359. A bill to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize grants for heroin and methamphetamine task forces; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I have come to this floor many times to speak about the toll the abuse of prescription opioids and heroin has taken on our communities. When I talk with Vermonters about this crisis, whether at our Judiciary Committee field hearings in Vermont or in conversations at kitchen tables or on street corners, I hear how opioid abuse destroys lives, tears apart families, and overwhelms communities.

As a lifelong Vermonter, I am proud of our small State. I see law enforcement and community leaders joining together. They have taken a real constructive approach to fighting addiction. They have created innovative and successful programs, such as the Rapid Intervention Community Court in Burlington and Project VISION in Rutland. The Boys & Girls Clubs throughout Vermont are working with schools and public health officials to help children affected by this epidemic. They are trying to keep them from being swept up into that world. Our local television stations are participating in public awareness campaigns. They are educating our citizens about drug abuse. These are the positive efforts that make me proud to be a Vermonter. But I am not just here to praise the good work in my State. I am here to work for my State and for all States that are coping with this drug addiction scourge—because all States are.

Earlier this year, Congress took an important step forward by passing the

Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, or CARA. This new law treats addiction as the public health crisis it is. I was proud to support this legislation in the Senate. But the final product fell short. CARA did not include the funding necessary to put its programs to work. The final legislation stripped out many of the best practices that were included in the Senate bill, including, among others, my provision to authorize the anti-heroin task force program I helped to establish. This provision was approved overwhelmingly by the Senate, and I thank my colleagues—Republicans and Democrats—who joined with me on that. But it was stripped out at the last minute by the House. That was really a shortsighted decision. It could hamper law enforcement agencies' ability to keep illegal opioids out of our communities.

So today I am introducing bipartisan legislation along with Senator GRASSLEY to help ensure that State and local law enforcement agencies can get the necessary funding and the support for anti-heroin task forces around the country. Our bill would authorize the Attorney General to provide grants to law enforcement agencies—those agencies that are engaged in statewide collaborative efforts to investigate and stop the unlawful trafficking of heroin, fentanyl, carfentanil, and prescription opioids. The bill also authorizes grants to support task forces to combat the trafficking of methamphetamines.

Our States are seeing an influx of powerful, deadly opioids that have never been seen by law enforcement before. Communities that have been struggling with heroin and prescription drug abuse are now encountering opioids such as fentanyl and carfentanil. What is so frightening about these is that they can kill the user even in small amounts. So I think we have a responsibility—all of us in Congress—to support smart policies and reduce the demand for these poisons. We must support targeted enforcement efforts to keep them out of our communities in the first place.

Now, I know these task forces work. Last month I heard from Vermont law enforcement officials who shared examples of how the Vermont Drug Task Force is helping to combat heroin trafficking in our State. The Vermont Drug Task Force has seen a significant increase in heroin investigations so far this year—up 70 percent from the same period last year. The task force has seized the equivalent of more than 94,000 bags of heroin this year alone, with a street value of more than \$1 million. Now, in an urban area that might not seem like much, but our State has 625,000 people. The largest city in our State has 38,000 people. We are being hammered by this.

But there is good news. The recent addition of five new investigative positions, as a result of Vermont's \$1.4 million anti-heroin task force grant, could not come at a more critical time. So this legislation will provide the anti-

heroin task force program with the resources they need to help more States, just like it is helping in Vermont.

I say this because we should know and the American public should know that our work in Congress on opioid abuse and addiction did not end when we passed CARA. In fact, I would say that it only began. If we are serious about combating drug addiction—and all of us will say we are against it, but if we are really serious—then we have to invest in our communities. Let us build on what we know is working. Let us give law enforcement agencies the tools they need to do their job effectively.

In my State of Vermont, I spend considerable time every month. I was there just a couple of days ago. We are a special State because you can talk with people. My wife Marcelle and I will talk with people coming out of church on Sunday or in the grocery store or just walking down the street to pick up our paper. Some of the stories we hear are so sad. We hear from people we have known for years—wonderful families, pillars of the community—who will tell us of their son or daughter suffering from opioid and other addictions. The saddest, though, are those people we have known who have lost a member of their family because of the powerful new drugs coming on the market.

I saw a lot of terrible things in this area when I was a prosecutor, but nothing like what we are seeing today. So let us look at the legislation that Senator GRASSLEY and I are introducing. Let us stop trying to fight this with slogans and goodwill. Let us fight it with real tools.

Again, I would add, let us not just rely—any of us—on saying we are against this. Let us do something. It is too bad the House stripped out much of what we had done well in our bill, but there is no reason why we cannot fight to put it back in. There is no reason why we cannot get the funding necessary. This will only work if we have the tools and the money.

I know that in our State it is not just law enforcement but the faith community, educators, parents, Boys & Girls Clubs, and medical professionals who are all working together. It is not just numbers. Every one of us—almost every one of us in our State—knows people who have suffered. I want to go back home and say that we are doing something to help them.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 3364. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to accept the donation of facilities and related improvements for use by the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the CHIP IN for Vets Act.

Lengthy delays and cost overruns have impeded construction of new

health care facilities for our veterans, raising roadblocks between them and the quality health care they have earned. These delays and overruns have not only negatively impacted our veterans' access to care, but also our nation's confidence in their health care system.

My legislation would create a 5-year pilot program that would allow communities to contribute real property toward on-time and on-budget construction projects. Partnerships between veterans, their local communities, and the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, will allow previously appropriated funds to be put to good use. Through five initial projects, community leaders and private sector experts can lead construction projects from start to finish and test a model that can be expanded into the future.

State or local authorities, and specified non-federal entities, will be eligible to partner with the VA. Entities would comply with the Department of Veterans Affairs' standards, except to the extent the Secretary determines otherwise, as permitted by law. Eligible projects would be limited to those for which funding has already been appropriated, or those on the VA's long-term planning list. The VA's financial obligation for these projects would be limited to the amount previously appropriated. The VA would select the project and community partner, but it would not influence, control, or be involved with either the management or construction of these projects. The Secretary would include information regarding real property and improvements donated under this legislation in the budget submitted to Congress. The Comptroller General would also submit to Congress a report on the donation agreements entered into under this legislation not less frequently than once every 2 years until its termination.

A significant amount of work went into revising this bill. I very much appreciate the support of Senator FEINSTEIN, who serves as lead cosponsor. Chairmen ISAKSON and ALEXANDER are supportive of this legislation. They, and the members of their staff, have been extraordinarily helpful through this process. The Department of Veterans Affairs staff has also been actively involved in the crafting of this legislation. They fully support it. The Congressional Budget Office has stated this bill would have an "insignificant impact on direct spending," or less than \$500,000 total.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support this common sense, bipartisan legislation. Thank you.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 572—DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 5, 2016, AS NATIONAL BISON DAY

Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. INHOFE,

Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. LEE, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 572

Whereas on May 9, 2016, the North American bison was adopted as the national mammal of the United States;

Whereas bison are considered a historical symbol of the United States;

Whereas bison were integrally linked with the economic and spiritual lives of many Indian tribes through trade and sacred ceremonies;

Whereas there are more than 60 Indian tribes participating in the Intertribal Buffalo Council;

Whereas numerous members of Indian tribes are involved in bison restoration on tribal land;

Whereas members of Indian tribes have a combined herd on more than 1,000,000 acres of tribal land;

Whereas the Intertribal Buffalo Council is a tribal organization incorporated pursuant to section 17 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (commonly known as the "Indian Reorganization Act") (25 U.S.C. 477);

Whereas bison can play an important role in improving the types of grasses found in landscapes to the benefit of grasslands;

Whereas a bison has been depicted on the official seal of the Department of the Interior since 1912;

Whereas bison hold significant economic value for private producers and rural communities;

Whereas, as of 2012, the Department of Agriculture estimates that 162,110 head of bison were under the stewardship of private producers, creating jobs, and contributing to the food security of the United States by providing a sustainable and healthy meat source;

Whereas a bison is portrayed on 2 State flags;

Whereas the bison has been adopted by 3 States as the official mammal or animal of those States;

Whereas the buffalo nickel played an important role in modernizing the currency of the United States;

Whereas several sports teams have the bison as a mascot, which highlights the iconic significance of bison in the United States;

Whereas a small group of ranchers helped save bison from extinction in the late 1800s by gathering the remaining bison of the diminished herds;

Whereas on December 8, 1905, William Hornaday, Theodore Roosevelt, and others formed the American Bison Society in response to the near extinction of bison in the United States;

Whereas on October 11, 1907, the American Bison Society sent 15 captive-bred bison from the New York Zoological Park, now known as the "Bronx Zoo", to the first big game refuge in the United States, now known as the "Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge";

Whereas in 2005, the American Bison Society was reestablished, bringing together bison ranchers, managers from Indian tribes, Federal and State agencies, conservation organizations, and natural and social scientists from the United States, Canada, and Mexico to create a vision for the North American bison in the 21st century;

Whereas there are bison herds in National Wildlife Refuges, National Parks, and National Forests;

Whereas there are bison in State-managed herds across 11 States;