

recipients of Social Security benefits. Currently, blind individuals aged 55 and over qualify for Social Security disability benefits if their earnings are below the level of the retirement earnings limit. My proposal would retain this parallel treatment between the retired and the blind.

The second major difference between my bill and the earlier McCain legislation is that my bill does not include an offset. I believe we must find a way to pay for this bill. But, it was clear that the vote to defeat an increase in the earnings limit earlier this month was based in part on the proposed offset. So, my hope is that by not specifying an offset now, we can work together in a bipartisan fashion to find a suitable way to pay for the costs of this proposal and increase the Social Security earnings limit.

Mr. President, those senior citizens who want to work and those who must work to make ends meet should be honored and commended, not penalized by the Social Security system. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 673

At the request of Mrs. KASSEBAUM, the name of the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. LOTT] was added as a cosponsor of S. 673, a bill to establish a youth development grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 704

At the request of Mr. SIMON, the name of the Senator from Kansas [Mrs. KASSEBAUM] was added as a cosponsor of S. 704, a bill to establish the Gambling Impact Study Commission.

S. 706

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois [Mr. SIMON] was added as a cosponsor of S. 706, a bill to prohibit the importation of goods produced abroad with child labor and for other purposes.

S. 969

At the request of Mrs. KASSEBAUM, the name of the Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] was added as a cosponsor of S. 969, a bill to require that health plans provide coverage for a minimum hospital stay for a mother and child following the birth of the child, and for other purposes.

S. 1228

At the request of Mr. D'AMATO, the name of the Senator from Michigan [Mr. LEVIN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1228, a bill to impose sanctions on foreign persons exporting petroleum products, natural gas, or related technology to Iran.

S. 1245

At the request of Mr. ASHCROFT, the name of the Senator from Alaska [Mr. STEVENS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1245, a bill to amend the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 to identify violent and hard-core juvenile offenders and treat them as adults, and for other purposes.

S. 1271

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from Alabama [Mr. HEFLIN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1271, a bill to amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982.

At the request of Mr. HELMS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1271, *supra*.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 30, 1995, for purposes of conducting a full committee business meeting which is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. The purpose of this meeting is to consider pending calendar business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be permitted to meet Thursday, November 30, 1995, beginning at 10 a.m. in room SD-215, to conduct a confirmation hearing on nominees currently pending before the committee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 30, 1995, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to hold a business meeting during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 30, 1995, at 10 a.m. in SD-226.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 30, 1995, at 2 p.m., in room 226 Senate Dirksen Office Building to consider nominations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 30, 1995, at 9:30 a.m. to hold a closed hearing regarding intelligence matters.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

THE CHARITABLE GIVING PROTECTION ACT

• Mr. DODD. Mr. President, last night the Senate passed the Charitable Giving Protection Act, which Senator HUTCHISON and I originally introduced earlier this year. This legislation will help charities use contributions effectively and ensure that these vital organizations can continue their good work. I commend Senator HUTCHISON for her diligent efforts and thank all of my colleagues for their help in passing this legislation in the Senate.

Every day across this country, charitable organizations help millions of Americans. Whether its giving disadvantaged children meals or clothing, providing shelter to the homeless, or working to support the educational and medical needs of the less fortunate, charities help weave a stronger social fabric for our Nation.

Regrettably, the benevolent endeavors of charities have been jeopardized by a lawsuit, *Ozee* versus American Council on Gift Annuities, currently before a Federal district court in Texas. That lawsuit, which has been certified as a class action against almost 2,000 charities, asks that all money donated to charities through charitable gift annuities be returned, along with double that amount in damages. I have heard from a broad spectrum of charitable organizations in Connecticut and they fear that this lawsuit will undermine their work.

Over the years, charities have used gift annuities as a means of making it easier for people to donate money. Generally, these transactions work as follows: A person donates money or some other asset to a charity and receives a tax deduction. The charity then invests the money and makes fixed, periodic payments to the donor. When the donor dies, the remainder of the gift goes to the charity. These arrangements help both donors and charities, and it was never the intent of Congress to unduly restrict their use.

In order to ensure that the lawsuit does not bankrupt charities and to facilitate the work of charities in the future, the Charitable Giving Protection Act clarifies Federal law. The legislation provides that the activities of charities relating to charitable gift annuities do not violate antitrust law. It also codifies certain exemptions that the Securities Exchange Commission has recognized for charitable organizations that pool and invest donations.

However, none of these changes would make it easier for charities to commit fraud. The legislation would not change the antifraud provisions in Federal securities law or affect Federal tax laws relating to fraud. People could still bring appropriate lawsuits against