

protect the American taxpayer by ending bailouts, to protect consumers from abusive financial services practices, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3978

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3978 intended to be proposed to S. 3217, an original bill to promote the financial stability of the United States by improving accountability and transparency in the financial system, to end "too big to fail", to protect the American taxpayer by ending bailouts, to protect consumers from abusive financial services practices, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3980

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3980 intended to be proposed to S. 3217, an original bill to promote the financial stability of the United States by improving accountability and transparency in the financial system, to end "too big to fail", to protect the American taxpayer by ending bailouts, to protect consumers from abusive financial services practices, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3985

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3985 intended to be proposed to S. 3217, an original bill to promote the financial stability of the United States by improving accountability and transparency in the financial system, to end "too big to fail", to protect the American taxpayer by ending bailouts, to protect consumers from abusive financial services practices, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3989

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3989 proposed to S. 3217, an original bill to promote the financial stability of the United States by improving accountability and transparency in the financial system, to end "too big to fail", to protect the American taxpayer by ending bailouts, to protect consumers from abusive financial services practices, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3991

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3991 proposed to S. 3217, an original bill to promote the financial stability of the United States by improving accountability and transparency in the finan-

cial system, to end "too big to fail", to protect the American taxpayer by ending bailouts, to protect consumers from abusive financial services practices, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4003

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4003 intended to be proposed to S. 3217, an original bill to promote the financial stability of the United States by improving accountability and transparency in the financial system, to end "too big to fail", to protect the American taxpayer by ending bailouts, to protect consumers from abusive financial services practices, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BURRIS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 3364. A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to establish the Office of Energy and Renewable Energy as the lead Federal agency for coordinating Federal, State, and local assistance provided to promote the energy retrofitting of schools; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, today I am introducing a bipartisan bill along with my colleague Senator COLLINS entitled the Streamlining Energy Efficiency for Schools Act of 2010. This bill is designed to streamline the Federal Government's efforts to improve the health and efficiency of our schools, while creating much-needed jobs in the process.

I am pleased that Senators BURRIS, MERKLEY and MURRAY are also joining us as original cosponsors of this bill.

For the past year I have been traveling across Colorado as part of a work force tour to talk directly to Coloradans and hear their innovative policy ideas to create jobs. These ongoing efforts help me identify ways the Federal Government can help or is not as effective as it can be in supporting economic development and meeting our national energy goals. The Streamlining Energy Efficiency for Schools Act of 2010 comes directly from visiting with Coloradans. This bill is just one of several job-creation proposals developed after I hosted an Energy Jobs Summit in February in Colorado.

There are numerous Federal programs and funds already available to schools to help them become more energy efficient. However, schools face a morass of programs and agency offices across the government and it is challenging for schools to take full advantage of them. This bipartisan bill will force the government to coordinate their efforts so that schools are less

confused and they can better navigate the existing federal programs and financing options available to them. Put simply, it will streamline the Federal Government while still leaving decisions to the states, school boards and local officials to determine what is best for their schools.

I have had a longstanding interest in energy efficiency technologies. These technologies further our national goals of broad-based economic growth, environmental protection, national security, and economic competitiveness.

I have also been a long-time champion of energy efficiency in our schools, introducing and co-sponsoring many bills over the years in the House of Representatives that promoted the efficient use of energy by our schools.

I have seen these energy efficient buildings first hand when traveling in Colorado. It is good to see that there are schools in my state that are already incorporating this technology into their buildings. For example, the Cherry Creek School District in Greenwood Village, CO, has incorporated day lighting techniques and ice storage to cool the buildings during the day. Because of these innovative improvements, the school district has enjoyed significant cost savings. This is good news not just for Colorado students, but also for Colorado taxpayers.

In another example, Colorado's Poudre School District in Fort Collins, CO, actively promotes sustainable design guidelines, calling it their "Ethic of Sustainability." This program includes an elementary school in Fort Collins that actually uses recycled blue jeans as insulation for the school buildings. This school has a "Truth Wall," an exposed cross-section where kids can see the denim at work, look at pipes and electrical systems, and check school energy use.

I hope that in passing this bill we will see more examples of these successful and creative projects across the country—projects that will increase the efficiency of our schools and teach our students about the importance of saving energy.

Through effective use of existing Federal Government programs and financing options, schools can reduce costs and create jobs at the same time becoming more energy efficient. Though it is often overlooked, energy efficiency is a huge job creator. Not only does it create jobs through the purchase and installation of efficient materials, it frees up scarce school finances to retain teachers and important programs.

What excites me most about this bill is that it will create jobs for Americans in every neighborhood where schools improve their energy efficiency. Right now, creating jobs is priority one for all of us.

But additionally, this bill helps reduce barriers to schools wishing to incorporate innovative energy efficiency measures, and creates a simple, streamlined structure to allow schools

to more effectively use existing Federal funds and programs—at a low cost. These cutting edge actions—which we are all seeing across our states—are making government more efficient and saving taxpayer dollars, a goal we all share. I urge my colleagues—of both parties—to join me in supporting this bipartisan legislation.

By Mr. AKAKA:

S. 3367. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the rate of pension for disabled veterans who are married to one another and both of whom require regular aid and attendance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I introduce legislation today to correct an inequity which affects a small number of couples where both the husband and wife are wartime veterans and each meets the criteria for VA pension with additional aid and attendance benefits. Currently these couples receive annual benefits of \$30,480. Under my bill, the annual amount would be increased by \$825 to \$31,305.

This measure would correct a mistake which occurred in 1998 with the enactment of Public Law 105-178. Section 8206 of that law increased the aid and attendance rates for veterans in receipt of VA pension who were in need of aid and attendance. Due to a drafting error, this increase was not provided to couples where both members were pension recipients in need of aid and attendance. This bill would correct that mistake by bringing the pension of a wartime veteran couple eligible for pension and aid and attendance into conformity with what their peers receive.

This is an appropriate result. Both members of such couples served our Nation with honor. In their time of need, they should not be short-changed by this mistake. Although only a small number of veterans qualify for this benefit, those who do so often pay large amounts of money to receive care in nursing homes, assisted-living facilities, or at home. My bill would increase the amounts paid so that each member of the couple would have their service taken into account in determining the benefit level.

I urge our colleagues to support this bill so that all veterans who served during wartime and are eligible for VA pension receive the same benefit payments and no member of a wartime veteran couple is shortchanged.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3367

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. INCREASE IN RATE OF PENSION FOR DISABLED VETERANS MARRIED TO ONE ANOTHER AND BOTH OF WHOM REQUIRE REGULAR AID AND ATTENDANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1521(f)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “\$8,911” and inserting “\$31,305”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

By Mr. AKAKA:

S. 3368. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize certain individuals to sign claims filed with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on behalf of claimants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I introduce legislation today that would give the Department of Veterans Affairs the same authority as the Social Security Administration with respect to claimants who are unable to complete applications for benefits without requiring assistance.

Occasionally, claimants for VA benefits are so disabled as to be incapable of understanding the information on the application form. VA lacks authority to authorize a court appointee or caregiver to sign an application form allowing the adjudication of the claim to proceed. Without a signed application, the claim cannot proceed.

The Social Security Administration has specific authority under the Social Security Act that permit a certain individuals, such as court appointed representatives, to sign a claim form on behalf of individuals unable to sign a claim form.

My bill would extend the same authority to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and would allow court appointed representatives and caregivers of applicants for VA benefits and services, including institutional representatives, to sign application forms. This bill does not alter the responsibility of VA to evaluate and appoint a fiduciary in cases where the beneficiary is determined to be incompetent to manage his or her benefits.

I urge our colleagues to support this bill so that unnecessary delays in the adjudication of these claims will be avoided.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3368

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS TO SIGN CLAIMS FILED WITH SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ON BEHALF OF CLAIMANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5101 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “A specific” and inserting “(1) A specific”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) If an individual has not attained the age of 18 years, is mentally incompetent, or is physically unable to sign a form, a form filed under paragraph (1) for the individual may be signed by a court appointed representative or a person who is responsible for the care of the individual, including a spouse or other relative. If the individual is in the care of an institution, the manager or principal officer of the institution may sign the form.”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by inserting “, signs a form on behalf of a person to apply for,” after “who applies for”; and

(ii) by inserting “, or TIN in the case that the person is not an individual,” after “of such person”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “or TIN” after “social security number” each place it appears; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) In this section:

“(1) The term ‘mentally incompetent’ with respect to an individual means that the individual lacks the mental capacity—

“(A) to provide substantially accurate information needed to complete a form; or

“(B) to certify that the statements made on a form are true and complete.

“(2) The term ‘TIN’ has the meaning given the term in section 7701(a)(41) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.”.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to claims filed on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. KYL, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 3376. A bill to authorize to be appropriated \$950,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2012 through 2015 to carry out the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise to introduce a bill, the SCAAP Reauthorization Act, on behalf of myself and Mr. KYL, to assist with alleviating the costs of illegal immigration to State and local governments by reauthorizing the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, SCAAP, through 2015.

We are pleased to be joined today by Senators SCHUMER, CORNYN, BOXER, HUTCHISON, BINGAMAN, MCCAIN, DURBIN, and CRAPO.

I believe that immigration policy and control of our borders is exclusively a Federal responsibility. Yet many undocumented criminal aliens are housed in our State prisons and our county jails at a cost that rises into the hundred of millions of dollars.

Understanding the expenses that States and localities bear, Congress enacted the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, (SCAAP), in 1994 as part of the Violent Crime Control Act. The program was designed to help reimburse States and localities for the costs of incarcerating undocumented criminal aliens. Under this program, States can be reimbursed for costs for housing undocumented aliens who are convicted of a felony or two or more misdemeanors in violation of State or

local law and incarcerated for at least 4 consecutive days.

Over the years, Senator KYL and I have worked to increase Congressional funding of SCAAP. Last year, Congress appropriated 393 million dollars to SCAAP. While this is only a fraction of the costs that States and localities bear for housing undocumented criminal aliens, even this level of funding is critical.

In 2009, undocumented aliens comprised approximately 11 percent of the inmates in California's State prison system. This year, the State of California is expected to spend 970.3 million dollars from the general fund on the incarceration of undocumented criminal aliens. However, it is expected that California will only receive reimbursement for 10 percent of its total costs. The State of California and its counties simply cannot afford to take on these costs, which stretch already thin budgets.

When the Federal Government does not reimburse States and localities for the cost of incarcerating criminal aliens, it is at the expense of our local educators, social services, and law enforcement. Insufficient SCAAP funding forces localities to engage in the "early release" of prisoners with misdemeanors as a cost saving measure and make cuts to other necessary public safety services. American communities simply cannot afford to shoulder the weight of our immigration policies.

I believe this legislation will reaffirm the Federal government's commitment to working with States and localities to address their financial concerns.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of this bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3376

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "SCAAP Reauthorization Act".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE STATE CRIMINAL ALIEN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Subparagraph (C) of section 241(i)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1231(i)(5)) is amended by striking "2011." and inserting "2015."

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 524—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL STUTTERING AWARENESS WEEK 2010

Mr. KAUFMAN (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. BURRIS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. GREGG, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. LEMIEUX, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. PRYOR, Mr.

REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 524

Whereas an estimated 3,000,000 Americans are affected by stuttering;

Whereas stuttering is a communication disorder experienced by children and adults alike;

Whereas individuals who stutter frequently experience embarrassment, anxiety about speaking, and physical tension in their speech muscles;

Whereas many different types of stuttering exist, and the symptoms of stuttering can range from mild to severe;

Whereas the cause of stuttering is unknown, but research suggests stuttering may be genetic;

Whereas stuttering commonly begins in children between the ages of 2 and 5;

Whereas parents are encouraged to consult with pediatricians or qualified speech-language pathologists as soon as stuttering becomes apparent in a child in order to take advantage of early-intervention therapies;

Whereas it is known that stuttering is not—

- (1) a nervous disorder;
- (2) the result of emotional problems; or
- (3) the fault of the individual who stutters or the family of that individual;

Whereas a 2009 survey by the National Stuttering Association found that—

- (1) 40 percent of adults and teenagers who stutter feel that they have been denied a job, a promotion, or a school opportunity as a result of stuttering; and
- (2) 8 out of 10 children who stutter report being bullied or teased;

Whereas many individuals who stutter do not have access to qualified speech-language pathologists or helpful resources;

Whereas several treatments for stuttering exist that can help individuals who stutter learn to speak more easily and gain confidence in themselves and their ability to communicate effectively;

Whereas organizations like the National Stuttering Association have been working for many years to raise awareness about stuttering, the effect stuttering has on the lives of individuals who stutter, available treatment options, and research being conducted to investigate the causes of stuttering;

Whereas, on April 13, 1988, the President of the United States signed a proclamation designating the week of May 9 through 16 of that year as National Stuttering Awareness Week;

Whereas since 1988, individuals who stutter and the families and friends of those individuals, as well as medical practitioners, speech language pathologists, researchers, and others have marked the second week of May as National Stuttering Awareness Week; and

Whereas the goals of the National Stuttering Awareness Week 2010 include increasing awareness among the people of the United States about stuttering and educating the people of the United States about ways to improve the lives of those who stutter: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Stuttering Awareness Week 2010; and

(2) encourages all of the people of the United States to learn more about stuttering and ways to help individuals who stutter feel more confident and comfortable speaking with others.

SENATE RESOLUTION 525—EX-PRESSING SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILIES OF THOSE KILLED IN THE SINKING OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA SHIP CHEONAN, AND SOLIDARITY WITH THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA IN THE AFTERMATH OF THIS TRAGIC INCIDENT

Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. LUGAR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 525

Whereas on March 26, 2010, the Republic of Korea Ship (ROKS) Cheonan was sunk by an external explosion in the vicinity of Baengnyeong Island, Republic of Korea;

Whereas of the 104 members of the crew of the Republic of Korea Ship Cheonan, 46 were killed in this incident, including 6 lost at sea;

Whereas on April 25, 2010, the Government of the Republic of Korea commenced a five-day period of mourning for these 46 sailors;

Whereas the Government of the Republic of Korea continues to lead an international investigation into the circumstances surrounding the sinking of the Republic of Korea Ship Cheonan;

Whereas the alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea has been a vital anchor for security and stability in Asia for more than 50 years; and

Whereas the United States and the Republic of Korea are bound together by the shared values of democracy and the rule of law: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its sympathy and condolences to the families and loved ones of the sailors of the Republic of Korea Ship (ROKS) Cheonan who were killed in action on March 26, 2010;

(2) stands in solidarity with the people and the Government of the Republic of Korea in the aftermath of this tragic incident;

(3) reaffirms its enduring commitment to the alliance between the Republic of Korea and the United States and to the security of the Republic of Korea;

(4) urges the continuing full cooperation and assistance of the United States Government in aiding the Government of the Republic of Korea as it investigates the cause of the sinking of the Republic of Korea Ship Cheonan;

(5) urges the international community to provide all necessary support to the Republic of Korea as the Government of the Republic of Korea investigates the sinking of the Republic of Korea Ship Cheonan; and

(6) further urges the international community to fully and faithfully implement all United Nations Security Council Resolutions pertaining to security on the Korean Peninsula, including United Nations Security Council Resolution 1695 (2006), United Nations Security Council Resolution 1718 (2006), and United Nations Security Council Resolution 1874 (2009).

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED ON MAY 12, 2010

SA 4005. Ms. COLLINS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3754 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY and intended to be proposed to the amendment SA 3739 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN)) to the bill S. 3217, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.