

S. 543. A bill to amend the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act of 1978 to provide for Scientific Advisory Board member qualifications, public participation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. VITTER, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. FLAKE):

S. 544. A bill to prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from proposing, finalizing, or disseminating regulations or assessments based upon science that is not transparent or reproducible; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. THUNE:

S. 545. A bill making continuing appropriations for Coast Guard pay in the event the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2015 expires and the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2015 is not enacted; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself, Mr. KING, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 546. A bill to establish the Railroad Emergency Services Preparedness, Operational Needs, and Safety Evaluation (RESPONSE) Subcommittee under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Advisory Council to provide recommendations on emergency responder training and resources relating to hazardous materials incidents involving railroads, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 547. A bill to establish a regulatory framework for the comprehensive protection of personal data for individuals under the aegis of the Federal Trade Commission, to amend the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 to improve provisions relating to collection, use, and disclosure of personal information of children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 548. A bill to clarify that funding for the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board is not subject to the sequester; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 549. A bill to clarify that funding for the Securities Investor Protection Corporation is not subject to the sequester; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 550. A bill to clarify that funding for the standard setting body designated pursuant to section 19(b) of the Securities Act of 1933 is not subject to the sequester; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. REED, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 551. A bill to increase public safety by permitting the Attorney General to deny the transfer of firearms or the issuance of firearms and explosives licenses to known or suspected dangerous terrorists; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. AYOTTE, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 552. A bill to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to provide for increased limitations on leverage for multiple licenses under common control; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. CORKER (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. COONS, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 553. A bill to marshal resources to undertake a concerted, transformative effort that seeks to bring an end to modern slavery, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. UDALL, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. KAIN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WARNER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. BALDWIN, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 554. A bill to provide for the compensation of Federal employees affected by a lapse in appropriations; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Ms. HEITKAMP):

S. Con. Res. 4. A concurrent resolution supporting the Local Radio Freedom Act; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. Con. Res. 5. A concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the International Decade for People of African Descent; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 28

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 28, a bill to limit the use of cluster munitions.

S. 71

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 71, a bill to preserve open competition and Federal Government neutrality towards the labor relations of Federal Government contractors on Federal and federally funded construction projects.

S. 155

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 155, a bill to promote freedom, fairness, and economic opportunity by repealing the income tax and other taxes, abolishing the Internal Revenue Service, and enacting a national sales tax to be administered primarily by the States.

S. 166

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 166, a bill to stop exploitation through trafficking.

S. 178

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added

as cosponsors of S. 178, a bill to provide justice for the victims of trafficking.

S. 203

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 203, a bill to restore Americans' individual liberty by striking the Federal mandate to purchase insurance.

S. 207

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 207, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to use existing authorities to furnish health care at non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities to veterans who live more than 40 miles driving distance from the closest medical facility of the Department that furnishes the care sought by the veteran, and for other purposes.

S. 262

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 262, a bill to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and for other purposes.

S. 263

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 263, a bill to protect the right of individuals to bear arms at water resources development projects.

S. 264

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 264, a bill to require a full audit of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal reserve banks by the Comptroller General of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 269

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors of S. 269, a bill to expand sanctions imposed with respect to Iran and to impose additional sanctions with respect to Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 275

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 275, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of home as a site of care for infusion therapy under the Medicare program.

S. 283

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 283, a bill to prohibit the Internal Revenue Service from modifying the standard for determining whether an

organization is operated exclusively for the promotion of social welfare for purposes of section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

S. 291

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 291, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for extensions of detention of certain aliens ordered removed, and for other purposes.

S. 305

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 305, a bill to protect American job creation by striking the Federal mandate on employers to offer health insurance.

S. 313

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 313, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to add physical therapists to the list of providers allowed to utilize locum tenens arrangements under Medicare.

S. 338

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 338, a bill to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

S. 373

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 373, a bill to provide for the establishment of nationally uniform and environmentally sound standards governing discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel.

S. 439

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 439, a bill to end discrimination based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity in public schools, and for other purposes.

S. 441

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 441, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to clarify the Food and Drug Administration's jurisdiction over certain tobacco products, and to protect jobs and small businesses involved in the sale, manufacturing and distribution of traditional and premium cigars.

S. 474

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 474, a bill to require State educational agencies that receive funding under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to have in effect

policies and procedures on background checks for school employees.

S. 490

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 490, a bill to achieve domestic energy independence by empowering States to control the development and production of all forms of energy on all available Federal land.

S. 491

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 491, a bill to lift the trade embargo on Cuba.

S. 498

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 498, a bill to allow reciprocity for the carrying of certain concealed firearms.

S. 505

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 505, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the Health Coverage Tax Credit.

S. 510

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 510, a bill to require Senate confirmation of Inspector General of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and for other purposes.

S. 512

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 512, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to safeguard data stored abroad from improper government access, and for other purposes.

S. 517

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 517, a bill to extend the secure rural schools and community self-determination program, to restore mandatory funding status to the payment in lieu of taxes program, and for other purposes.

S. 524

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 524, a bill to authorize the Attorney General to award grants to address the national epidemics of prescription opioid abuse and heroin use.

S. 527

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) were added as cosponsors of S. 527, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Foot

Soldiers who participated in Bloody Sunday, Turnaround Tuesday, or in the final Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March in March of 1965, which served as a catalyst for the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

S. RES. 84

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 84, a resolution celebrating Black History Month.

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 84, *supra*.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 539. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise in support of the Medicare Access to Rehabilitation Services Act, which I am introducing today with my colleague Senator COLLINS. This important bill repeals the monetary caps that limit Medicare beneficiaries' access to medically necessary outpatient physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language pathology services.

Limits on outpatient rehabilitation therapy services under Medicare were first imposed in 1997 as part of the Balanced Budget Act. The decision to impose limits on these services was not based on data, quality-of-care concerns, or clinical judgment—its sole purpose was to limit spending in order to balance the federal budget. Since 1997, Congress has acted over 12 times to prevent the implementation of the therapy caps through moratoriums and an exceptions process. While these short-term actions have provided necessary relief to our seniors, a long-term solution is essential to bring permanent relief and much-needed stability for both patients and providers.

We need a full repeal of the existing caps on physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language pathology services. These annual financial caps limit services often needed after a stroke, traumatic brain injury, or spinal cord injury, or to effectively manage conditions such as Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, and arthritis. Arbitrary caps on these vital Medicare outpatient therapy services are simply unacceptable. They also discriminate against the oldest and sickest Medicare beneficiaries, who typically require the most intensive therapy, and disadvantage Medicare beneficiaries who live in regions with higher health care costs.

In a 2009 report issued by the Medicare Payment Advisory Committee, MEDPAC, it was estimated that the