

appeals and to apply to other certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, to require the revision of the third class medical certification regulations issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-198).

By Mr. BARRASSO, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, without amendment:

S. 152. A bill to prohibit gaming activities on certain Indian land in Arizona until the expiration of certain gaming compacts (Rept. No. 114-199).

### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. MCCAIN for the Committee on Armed Services.

\*Patrick Joseph Murphy, of Pennsylvania, to be Under Secretary of the Army.

\*Janine Anne Davidson, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Navy.

\*Lisa S. Disbrow, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Air Force.

\*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

### 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 Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 2422. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out certain major medical facility projects for which appropriations are being made for fiscal year 2016; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 2423. A bill making appropriations to address the heroin and opioid drug abuse epidemic for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 2424. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize a program for early detection, diagnosis, and treatment regarding deaf and hard-of-hearing newborns, infants, and young children; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BURR, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BENNET, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 2425. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to improve payments for complex rehabilitation technology and certain radiation therapy services, to ensure flexibility in applying the hardship exception for meaningful use for the 2015 EHR reporting period for 2017 payment adjustments, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

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

S. 2426. A bill to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to obtain observer status for Taiwan in the International Criminal Police Organization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 2427. A bill to prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities who need long-term services and supports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BENNET:

S. 2428. A bill to amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to establish a National Service for Schools Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. AYOTTE (for herself, Mr. BURR, Mr. KIRK, Mr. GRAHAM, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. WICKER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 2429. A bill to require a report on the military dimensions of Iran's nuclear program and to prohibit the provision of sanctions relief to Iran until Iran has verifiably ended all military dimensions of its nuclear program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2430. A bill to permit the recovery of costs incurred by U.S. Customs and Border Protection for preclearance operations activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 2431. A bill to improve the training of child protection professionals; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCOTT (for himself and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. 2432. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to require the disclosure of the portion of health insurance premiums attributable to the health insurance tax; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 2433. A bill to provide Federal support to increase public transportation ridership by college students; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 2434. A bill to provide that any executive action that infringes on the powers and duties of Congress under section 8 of article I of the Constitution of the United States or on the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States has no force or effect, and to prohibit the use of funds for certain purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 2435. A bill to ensure that each covered alien receives a thorough background investigation before such alien is admitted to the United States as a refugee, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. REID, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 2436. A bill to provide for certain assistance and reforms relating to the territories, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

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

S. Res. 338. A resolution congratulating Towson University on the 150th anniversary of the founding of the university; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mrs. ERNST):

S. Res. 339. A resolution congratulating the University of Iowa College of Law for 150 years of outstanding service to the State of Iowa, the United States, and the world; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. WICKER):

S. Res. 340. A resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS or Da'esh) is committing genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes, and calling upon the President to work with foreign governments and the United Nations to provide physical protection for ISIS' targets, to support the creation of an international criminal tribunal with jurisdiction to punish these crimes, and to use every reasonable means, including sanctions, to destroy ISIS and disrupt its support networks; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. Res. 341. A resolution designating January 2016 as "National Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Awareness Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. Res. 342. A resolution congratulating the women's volleyball team of Wheeling Jesuit University on winning the Division II National Championship; considered and agreed to.

### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 429

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 429, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide a standard definition of therapeutic foster care services in Medicaid.

S. 613

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 613, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the efficiency of summer meals.

S. 627

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 627, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to revoke bonuses paid to employees involved in electronic wait list manipulations, and for other purposes.

S. 697

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 697, a bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to reauthorize and modernize that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1082

At the request of Mrs. ERNST, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1082, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the removal or demotion of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs based on

performance or misconduct, and for other purposes.

S. 1121

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1121, a bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1169

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1169, a bill to reauthorize and improve the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, and for other purposes.

S. 1455

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1455, a bill to provide access to medication-assisted therapy, and for other purposes.

S. 1559

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1559, a bill to protect victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence from emotional and psychological trauma caused by acts of violence or threats of violence against their pets.

S. 1607

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) and the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) were added as cosponsors of S. 1607, a bill to affirm the authority of the President to require independent regulatory agencies to comply with regulatory analysis requirements applicable to executive agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 1648

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1648, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to create a sustainable future for rural healthcare.

S. 1656

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1656, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the publicly traded partnership ownership structure to energy power generation projects and transportation fuels, and for other purposes.

S. 1688

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1688, a bill to provide for the admission of the State of New Columbia into the Union.

S. 1774

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Cali-

fornia (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1774, a bill to amend title 11 of the United States Code to treat Puerto Rico as a State for purposes of chapter 9 of such title relating to the adjustment of debts of municipalities.

S. 1890

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1890, a bill to amend chapter 90 of title 18, United States Code, to provide Federal jurisdiction for the theft of trade secrets, and for other purposes.

S. 1893

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1893, a bill to reauthorize and improve programs related to mental health and substance use disorders.

S. 1911

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1911, a bill to implement policies to end preventable maternal, newborn, and child deaths globally.

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1911, *supra*.

S. 1915

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1915, a bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to make anthrax vaccines and antimicrobials available to emergency response providers, and for other purposes.

S. 2196

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 2222

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2222, a bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to support community college and industry partnerships, and for other purposes.

S. 2234

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Sen-

ator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2234, a bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the members of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in recognition of their superior service and major contributions during World War II.

S. 2251

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2251, a bill to provide for a supplementary payment to Social Security beneficiaries, supplemental security income beneficiaries, and recipients of veterans benefits, and for other purposes.

S. 2268

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2268, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the

United States Army Dust Off crews of the Vietnam War, collectively, in recognition of their extraordinary heroism and life-saving actions in Vietnam.

S. 2356

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2356, a bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to require an electronic communication service provider that generates call detail records pursuant to an order under that Act to notify the Attorney General if the provider intends to retain such records for a period less than 18 months.

S. 2362

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2362, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide enhanced security measures for the Visa Waiver Program, and for other purposes.

S. 2372

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2372, a bill to require reporting of terrorist activities and the unlawful distribution of information relating to explosives, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 290

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 290, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that any protocol to, or other agreement regarding, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change of 1992, negotiated at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris will be considered a treaty requiring the advice and consent of the Senate.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 2422. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out certain major medical facility projects for which appropriations are being made for fiscal year 2016; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I speak today regarding the introduction of a bill, cosponsored by Senators BOXER and CARDIN, to provide the Department of Veterans Affairs with the authority to obligate and expend appropriated funds in order to begin construction on critical projects in California, Kentucky, Maryland, and Washington. This is time-sensitive legislation, and I am working with my colleague and friend Chairman ISAKSON to move the bill by unanimous consent as soon as a final fiscal year 2016 funding measure is enacted.

Last month, the Senate passed the fiscal year 2016 Military Construction,

Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, which provided \$822,800,000 for major construction projects at these Veterans Affairs Medical Centers. This bill passed without a single vote cast against it.

However, the Department of Veterans Affairs cannot spend the money appropriated for fiscal year 2016 and begin construction on these projects because it lacks a separate authorization, which is required by law.

The legislation I am introducing today simply provides the authorization, as required by law, to allow the Department to move forward its fiscal year 2016 projects.

The fiscal year 2016 projects include critical, time-sensitive seismic safety corrections to structures in San Francisco, West Los Angeles, Long Beach, and American Lake. These buildings, which include health care facilities, veteran housing, and a community living center, are at an exceptionally high risk of collapse or suffering severe damage during an earthquake.

If a major earthquake struck in proximity to one of these medical centers while it was in use by veterans and the department's employees, there could be numerous injuries and deaths.

The U.S. Geological Survey estimates there is a greater than 99 percent chance that a magnitude 6.7 or greater earthquake will strike California in the next 30 years.

It is important to note that even less severe earthquakes can cause damage to seismically unsafe buildings that result in injuries and deaths. The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services believes that the damage to seismically unfit buildings caused by the magnitude 6.0 earthquake that hit Napa, California on August 24, 2014, at 3:20 a.m., would likely have resulted in many more deaths and injuries if it had struck during business hours when these structures were in use. As it was, the earthquake caused over 200 injuries and one fatality.

In fact, the U.S. Geological Survey estimates that a 6.0 magnitude earthquake hits California every 1.2 years on average. This is a terrifying figure, and it is why I strongly believe that Congress must enact this legislation without delay.

This is not a hypothetical situation. In 1971, the devastating San Fernando 6.6 magnitude earthquake struck and caused a total of 58 deaths. The older, deficient buildings at the San Fernando VA medical center were demolished, killing 30 patients and 10 staff. The destruction on the Federal Government's VA campus was responsible for the majority of all deaths reported in this earthquake. Had the Federal buildings been structurally sound, there is a likelihood that many of these deaths could have been prevented. If there are any Senators in this body who might want to delay moving the fiscal year 2016 construction authorizations, I urge them to think long and hard about this tragic event.

In 2015, Congress did not authorize the Department's major construction projects until this past September; 10 months after funds were appropriated by Congress in the fiscal year 2015 Omnibus. I believe it would be a huge disservice to our veterans to allow such a lengthy delay to occur again.

More hearings and delays are unnecessary to determine whether the Senate should pass this legislation. The Senate Appropriations Committee held hearings with the Department on these projects as it reviewed the President's fiscal year 2016 budget request. The Senate Committee marked up and reported the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies appropriations bill in a bipartisan fashion. The Senate voted in a unanimous fashion to pass this bill just last month.

I also understand there are concerns about the effectiveness of the Department's construction process, but the Senate's appropriations bill also included important provisions requiring the Department to work closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on improving the management controls for its next major construction projects.

I want to reiterate that without a separate authorization, the Department cannot start this vital work to protect our veterans and federal employees.

This is exactly why Americans believe that the Federal Government does not work. How does Congress explain this unnecessary delay to veterans who go to medical appointments in the buildings at risk of collapse or major damage? There is no reason to delay authorizing these projects when the money has already been appropriated.

I urge my colleagues to join me in quickly approving this legislation so that the fiscal year 2016 construction projects can move forward. Congress must act before the next earthquake strikes.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 338—CONGRATULATING TOWSON UNIVERSITY ON THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE UNIVERSITY

Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 338

Whereas, on January 15, 1866, Towson University, located in Towson, Maryland, celebrates the founding of the university on January 15, 1866;

Whereas Article VIII, section 1 of the Constitution of Maryland, adopted in convention in 1864, called for a uniform system of free public schools for the State of Maryland;

Whereas, in 1865, the General Assembly of Maryland (referred to in this preamble as the "General Assembly") created the State Normal School, which would become Towson University;