

Whereas, using the seldom-used method commonly known as Private Relief Legislation, the Congress can act swiftly to allow Wojtek Tokarczyk to re-enter the United States of America, and be legally adopted by his aunt and uncle, Walter and Teresa Tokarczyk; and

Whereas, Wojtek Tokarczyk has become a boy without a country. This is not an instance where the Immigration and Naturalization Service has acted to protect the resources of this nation from an undesirable illegal alien. He is missed dearly by his family, his soccer teammates and friends, and the community at large. Wojtek is also missed by the local fire department where he served as a volunteer firefighter. This is a matter of family values and a sense of community. The prompt return of Wojtek Tokarczyk would be one small victory for the American notion that families are our most important resource and that close-knit communities still exist, now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we memorialize the President of the United States and the Congress of the United States to take immediate and necessary action to provide for United States citizenship for Wojtek Tokarczyk; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States of America, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

H.R. 927. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for appointment of United States marshals by the Attorney General.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary:

Garr M. King, of Oregon, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon.

Kermit Lipez, of Maine, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit.

Robert T. Dawson, of Arkansas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Arkansas.

Johnnie B. Rawlinson, of Nevada, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada.

Gregory Moneta Sleet, of Delaware, to be United States District Judge for the District of Delaware.

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1864. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to exclude clinical social worker services from coverage under the medicare skilled nursing facility prospective

payment system; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BAUCUS:

S. 1865. A bill to amend title IV of the Social Security Act to provide safeguards against the abuse of information reported to the National Directory of New Hires; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DEWINE:

S. 1866. A bill to provide assistance to improve research regarding the quality and effectiveness of health care for children, to improve data collection regarding children's health, and to improve the effectiveness of health care delivery systems for children; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Ms. COLLINS:

S. 1867. A bill to amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, for the purpose of facilitating compliance by small businesses with certain Federal paperwork requirements, and to establish a task force to examine the feasibility of streamlining paperwork requirements applicable to small businesses; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. NICKLES (for himself, Mr.

MACK, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. HUTCHINSON, and Mr. DEWINE):

S. 1868. A bill to express United States foreign policy with respect to, and to strengthen United States advocacy on behalf of, individuals persecuted for their faith worldwide; to authorize United States actions in response to religious persecution worldwide; to establish an Ambassador at Large on International Religious Freedom within the Department of State, a Commission on International Religious Persecution, and a Special Adviser on International Religious Freedom within the National Security Council; and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CLELAND (for himself, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. KERRY, Mr. HOLLINGS, and Mr. HARKIN):

S. 1869. A bill to authorize the establishment of a disaster mitigation pilot program in the Small Business Administration; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. CAMPBELL:

S. 1870. A bill to amend the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. ROTH (for himself and Mr. MOYNIHAN):

S. 1871. A bill to provide that the exception for certain real estate investment trusts from the treatment of stapled entities shall apply only to existing property, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. NICKLES:

S. 1872. A bill to prohibit new welfare for politicians; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. INOUE:

S. Res. 200. A resolution designating March 26, 1998, as "National Maritime Arbitration Day"; considered and agreed to.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1864. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to exclude clinical social worker services from coverage under the Medicare skilled

nursing facility prospective payment system; to the Committee on Finance.

THE MEDICARE SOCIAL WORK EQUITY ACT OF 1998

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the "Medicare Social Work Equity Act of 1998". I am proud to sponsor this legislation which will amend section 4432 in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 which prevents social workers from directly billing Medicare for mental health services provided in skilled nursing facilities. I am honored to be joined by my good friends Senator MURRAY and Senator WYDEN who care equally about correcting this inequity for social workers.

Last year's Balanced Budget Act changed the payment method for skilled nursing facility care. Under current law, reimbursement is made after services have been delivered for the reasonable costs incurred. However, this "cost-based system" was blamed for inordinate growth in Medicare spending at skilled nursing facilities.

The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 phases in a prospective payment system for skilled nursing facilities beginning July 1, 1998. Payments for Part B services for skilled nursing facility residents will be consolidated. This means that the provider of the services must bill the facility instead of directly billing Medicare.

Congress was careful to not include psychologists and psychiatrists in this new consolidated billing provision. Social workers were included, I think by mistake. Clinical social workers are the primary providers of mental health services to residents of nursing homes, particularly in underserved urban and rural areas. Clinical social workers are also the most cost effective mental health providers.

This legislation is important for three reasons: First, I am concerned that section 4432 will inadvertently reduce mental health services to nursing home residents. Second, I believe that the new consolidated billing requirement will result in a shift from using social workers to other mental health professionals who are reimbursed at a higher cost. This will result in higher costs to Medicare. Finally, I am concerned that clinical social workers will lose their jobs in nursing homes or will be inadequately reimbursed.

I like this bill because it will correct an inequity for America's social workers, it will assure quality of care for nursing home residents, and will assure cost efficiency for Medicare. I look forward to the Senate's support of this worthy legislation.

By Mr. BAUCUS:

S. 1865. A bill to amend title IV of the Social Security Act to provide safeguards against the abuse of information reported to the National Directory of New Hires; to the Committee on Finance.