

certain land into trust for the Pueblo of Zia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. STEVENS:

S. 1650. A bill for the relief of Katarina Galovic; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. STEVENS:

S. 1651. A bill for the relief of Gustav F. K. Wallner; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. KOHL, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. VOINOVICH, and Mr. PRYOR):

S. 1652. A bill to ratify the do-not-call registry provision of the Telemarketing Sales Rule, as amended by the Federal Trade Commission, effective March 31, 2003; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. INOUE:

S. 1653. A bill to ensure that recreational benefits are given the same priority as hurricane and storm damage reduction benefits and environmental restoration benefits; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. STEVENS (for himself and Mr. HOLLINGS):

S. 1654. A bill to ratify the authority of the Federal Trade Commission to establish a do-not-call registry; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 59

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 59, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit former members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability rated as total to travel on military aircraft in the same manner and to the same extent as retired members of the Armed Forces are entitled to travel on such aircraft.

S. 429

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 429, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to regulate certain 50 caliber sniper weapons in the same manner as machine guns and other firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 617

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 617, a bill to provide for full voting representation in Congress for the citizens of the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

S. 623

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 623, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.

S. 852

At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 852, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide limited TRICARE program eligibility for members of the Ready Reserve of the Armed Forces, to provide financial support for continuation of health insurance for mobilized members of reserve components of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 874

At the request of Mr. TALENT, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 874, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to include primary and secondary preventative medical strategies for children and adults with Sickle Cell Disease as medical assistance under the medicaid program, and for other purposes.

S. 884

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 884, a bill to amend the Consumer Credit Protection Act to assure meaningful disclosures of the terms of rental-purchase agreements, including disclosures of all costs to consumers under such agreements, to provide certain substantive rights to consumers under such agreements, and for other purposes.

S. 1222

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1222, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in determining eligibility for payment under the prospective payment system for inpatient rehabilitation facilities, to apply criteria consistent with rehabilitation impairment categories established by the Secretary for purposes of such prospective payment system.

S. 1246

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 1246, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for collegiate housing and infrastructure grants.

S. 1292

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 1292, a bill to establish a servitude and emancipation archival research clearinghouse in the National Archives.

S. 1353

At the request of Mr. BROWBACK, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1353, a bill to establish new special immigrant categories.

S. 1510

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from California

(Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1510, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide a mechanism for United States citizens and lawful permanent residents to sponsor their permanent partners for residence in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1524

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. CAMPBELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1524, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a 7-year applicable recovery period for depreciation of motorsports entertainment complexes.

S. 1545

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1545, a bill to amend the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to permit States to determine State residency for higher education purposes and to authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain alien students who are long-term United States residents.

S. 1557

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1557, a bill to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to the products of Armenia.

S. 1618

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1618, a bill to reauthorize Federal Aviation Administration Programs for the period beginning on October 1, 2003, and ending on March 31, 2004, and for other purposes.

S. 1637

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1637, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to comply with the World Trade Organization rulings on the FSC/ETI benefit in a manner that preserves jobs and production activities in the United States, to reform and simplify the international taxation rules of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 70

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 70, a concurrent resolution supporting National Funeral Service Education Week.

S. RES. 78

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 78, a resolution designating March 25, 2003, as "Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy".

S. RES. 219

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. TALENT), the

Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 219, a resolution to encourage the People's Republic of China to establish a market-based valuation of the yuan and to fulfill its commitments under international trade agreements.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CAMPBELL (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 1647. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for direct access to audiologists for medicare beneficiaries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, today I am introducing legislation which would give Medicare recipients the same hearing care options available to veterans and Senators. Specifically, it would give Medicare beneficiaries direct access to qualified, licensed audiologists. I am pleased to be joined in this effort by my colleague, Senator TIM JOHNSON.

Today, approximately 28 million Americans are hearing disabled. Many of them are older Americans—a statistic that is fast increasing with the aging of the “baby boomers.” With 80 to 90 percent of hearing problems not medically or surgically treatable, it seems only reasonable that Medicare patients be allowed to consult with an audiologist without first seeing another provider. It is part of regular audiological practice to refer patients for medical management when clinical indicators are present.

In the 1990's, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Office of Personnel Management changed their respective healthcare policies to allow for the option of direct access to a licensed audiologist. Earlier this year, I wrote the VA asking if veterans were satisfied with that coverage for audiological services. According to the VA response, “The policy has provided and continues to provide high quality, cost effective, and successful hearing health care to veterans.” It is important to point out that this bill would not diminish the important role of medical doctors, or expand the scope of practice for audiology.

This legislation is consumer friendly. It will help our elderly and rural citizens who often find it difficult to access health care services. It will provide consistency of policy among Government agencies. That is why I urge my colleagues to act quickly on this legislation.

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

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

S. 1647

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 “Hearing Health Accessibility Act of 2003”.

SEC. 2. DIRECT ACCESS TO QUALIFIED AUDIOLOGISTS FOR MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES.

Section 1861(11)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(11)(2)) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, without regard to any requirement that the individual receiving the audiology services be under the care of (or referred by) a physician or other health care practitioner or that such services are provided under the supervision of a physician or other health care practitioner”.

SEC. 3. INCLUSION OF AUDIOLOGY SERVICES AS A PART B MEDICAL SERVICE; PAYMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861(s)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(s)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (U), by striking “and” after the semicolon at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (V)(iii), by inserting “and” after the semicolon at the end; and

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

“(W) audiology services (as defined in subsection (1)(2));”.

(b) PAYMENT UNDER THE PHYSICIAN FEE SCHEDULE.—Section 1848(j)(3) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(j)(3)) is amended by inserting “(2)(W);” after “(2)(S);”.

SEC. 4. CONSTRUCTION; EFFECTIVE DATE.

(a) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to expand the scope of audiology services for which payment may be made under title XVIII of the Social Security Act as of December 31, 2003.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this Act shall take effect with respect to services furnished on or after January 1, 2004.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I am happy to join my colleague, Senator CAMPBELL, in introducing legislation that will provide millions of seniors with direct access to important audiology services through the Medicare Program.

Approximately 28 million people in the U.S. have some degree of reduced hearing sensitivity, and of this number, 80 percent have irreversible hearing loss. The majority of these individuals are 65 and older, and as the baby boom generation ages, this number will skyrocket. Hearing loss is the 3rd most prevalent chronic condition in the older population. One in three people older than 60 and half of those older than 85 have a hearing loss problem and only about one-fourth of those who could benefit from a hearing aid actually use one.

Hearing problems can make it difficult to understand and follow a doctor's advice, respond to warnings, and to hear doorbells and alarms. They can also take away from the enjoyment of the simple things in life, like talking to friends and family, or listening to the radio or television. Additionally, the 21st century work environment requires intense use of communication and information skills and technologies. As seniors continue to remain in the workforce for longer periods, work-related hearing challenges will become increasingly evident and the individual who has a communication

disability, disorder, or difference will be at a distinct disadvantage.

This legislation will help seniors challenged by hearing problems obtain direct access to licensed audiologists through the Medicare Program. Because most of these hearing conditions are not medically or surgically treatable, direct access to audiology services will allow comprehensive and timely care through the diagnosis, treatment, and management of hearing loss. Audiologists can conduct a variety of specialized auditory assessments and based on such examinations, can present numerous options to help patients cope with hearing problems. This legislation will not diminish the important role of primary care physicians, who closely with audiologists and will remain intimately involved in patient care as needed under this bill.

Direct access to such audiology services is supported by numerous governmental agencies. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recognized the importance of this issue by making access by persons with hearing impairments to rehabilitative services a Health People 2010 objective. Additionally, the Veteran's Administration and Office of Personnel Management have established policies to allow beneficiaries such access. Seniors under the Medicare Program deserve similar benefits, and I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 1648. A bill to modify the date as of which certain tribal land of the Lytton Rancheria of California is deemed to be held in trust; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation that would partially repeal language from the Omnibus Indian Advancement Act of 2000; language that circumvents the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act's common-sense protections and regulatory safeguards against the inappropriate siting of Nevada-style casinos.

In 2000, a one-paragraph provision was attached to the Omnibus Indian Advancement Act taking land into trust for a single Indian tribe, the Lytton, with the aim of allowing the tribe to expedite plans to establish a large gaming complex in San Pablo, CA.

The site which is not part of, nor adjacent to, any land traditionally held by the Lytton is, in fact, a 10-acre property which includes a card club and parking lot, and is located in a major urban area just outside of San Francisco. The process to bring this land into trust and sidestep gaming oversight was done without regard for Federal laws currently in place to regulate the siting of such a casino.

Today California is home to 109 federally recognized tribes. 64 tribes have gaming compacts with the State and there are 54 tribal casinos. With more than 50 tribes seeking Federal recognition and approximately 25 recognized