

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 163

Whereas, access to capital is a key component of establishing a new enterprise. The ability to raise sufficient funding to start a business is one of the major hurdles any entrepreneur faces in attempting to create a new company; and

Whereas, because the creation of new businesses is fundamental to job creation and a successful economy, making capital more available to start-up companies is a challenge of great significance to our communities and the entire country. In response to the need, Congress has on several occasions enacted measures to encourage the establishment of new business. Congressional tools, including tax incentives for high-risk companies at the early stages of development and other moves that encourage investment in start-up ventures, can be highly beneficial; and

Whereas, Michigan is strongly committed to encouraging venture capital investment in this state. Our efforts, however, will not be nearly as effective as they could be without similar leadership from Congress. A multi-pronged effort, with both the states and the national government encouraging private enterprise, can lead to greater innovation in any number of fields. This innovation, a hallmark of American society is critical to the vitality of our national economy as we respond to challenges in an era of great change: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the senate, That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to enact measures that support venture capital activities in Michigan; and be it further

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

POM-362. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Michigan relative to a federal charter for the Korean War Veterans Association; to the Committee of Veteran's Affairs.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 187

Whereas, as our country has marked the fiftieth anniversary of the ending of hostilities in Korea, historians, policymakers, and veterans of that difficult conflict have reflected on the impact of the war on our country and the world. Revisiting the events surrounding the Korean War has brought public attention to many aspects of what some call "the forgotten war"; and

Whereas, unlike other veterans groups, the Korean War Veterans Association does not have a federal charter. Without this charter, this respected organization—the only veterans groups comprised entirely of veterans of the Korean War—cannot provide the same level of services other groups can. This deficiency makes it more difficult for members and families to receive appropriate services; and

Whereas, legislation to extend a federal charter to the Korean War Veterans Association is pending in both the House of Representatives (H.R. 1043) and the Senate (S. 478) of the Congress. Enactment of this measure will enable the Korean War Veterans Association to provide a wider range of services, especially the processing of claims. Clearly, this long-overdue status will assist our heroes of the Korean War and express the nation's respect for their sacrifices and honor: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the senate, That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to grant a federal charter to the Korean War Veterans Association; and be it further

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

POM-363. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relative to a new national veterans' cemetery in Philadelphia; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 124

Whereas, veterans residing in metropolitan Philadelphia are in desperate need of a new national veterans cemetery; and

Whereas, southeastern Pennsylvania veterans do not have the opportunity to be buried in a veterans cemetery within 75 miles of their home, as the Department of Veterans Affairs guidelines require, and this imposes an emotional and physical burden on their surviving loved ones; and

Whereas, the importance of and need for a veterans cemetery in the southeastern Pennsylvania region has already been recognized by the 108th Congress; and

Whereas, for providing heroic service and sacrifice to our nation, southeastern Pennsylvania veterans should have the opportunity to be buried close to home: Therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorialize Congress to pass H.R. 1516; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

POM-364. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urging Congress to not lower veterans' benefits in the budget; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 161

Whereas, the Congress of the United States is considering a proposed national budget that includes further reductions to veterans' health care benefits based on establishing new annual enrollment fees, more than doubling copay requirements and restricting long-term access to benefits for future veterans currently serving their country on active duty at home and abroad; and

Whereas, the proposed reductions to veterans' health care benefits come at a time when this country is experiencing a nationwide health care crisis that forces millions of senior citizens, many of whom are veterans living on fixed income, to choose between purchasing food or medical services and prescription drugs to treat life-threatening illnesses; and

Whereas, the health care benefit needs of veterans deserve to be given a higher priority in the national budget so as to ensure the full funding of veterans' health care programs: Therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorialize the President and Congress of the United States to not reduce veterans' benefits in the national budget; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, to the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of committee was submitted:

By Mr. GRASSLEY for the Committee on Finance.

*Samuel W. Bodman, of Massachusetts, to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury.

*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. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. REID):

S. 2068. A bill to enhance and improve benefits for members of the National Guard and Reserves who serve extended periods on active duty, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself and Mr. BAYH):

S. 2069. A bill to expand the S visa classification to include aliens who are in possession of critical reliable information with respect to weapons of mass destruction, to establish a Weapons of Mass Destruction Informant Center, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HAGEL:

S. 2070. A bill to amend the Animal Health Protection Act to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to implement the United States Animal Identification Plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. KOHL (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 2071. A bill to expand the definition of immediate relative for purposes of the Immigration and Nationality Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRAIG:

S. 2072. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a nonrefundable tax credit for elder care expenses; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. LOTT):

S. 2073. A bill to amend chapter 1 of title 3, United States Code, relating to Presidential succession; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. DORGAN:

S. 2074. A bill for the relief of Klas Dieter Hinze, Heidi Hinze, Annamarie Hinze, and Robert Arndt; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REID (for himself, Mrs. LINCOLN, and Mr. BREAUX):

S. 2075. A bill to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to include each year of fellowship training in geriatric medicine or geriatric psychiatry as a year of obligated service under the National Health Corps Loan Repayment Program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BAUCUS:

S. 2076. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to provide direct congressional access to the office of the Chief Actuary in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRAIG (for himself and Mr. BAYH):

S. 2077. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to permit additional States to enter into long-term care partnerships under the Medicaid Program in order to promote the use of long-term care insurance; to the Committee on Finance.